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**NAZIONALE**

**DOPOLAVORO,**

**NATIONAL LEISURE HOURS  
INSTITUTION IN ITALY**

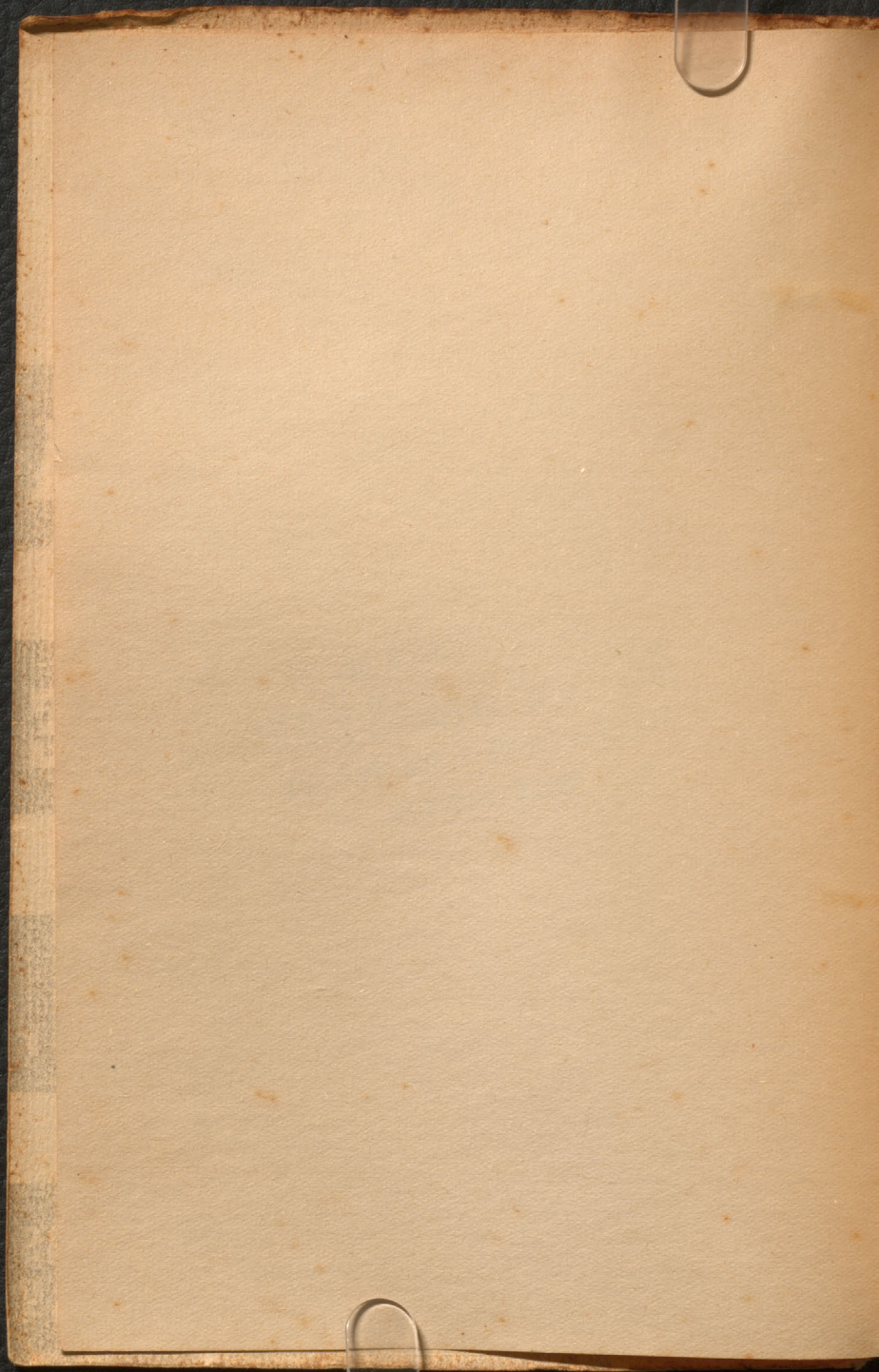
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NATIONAL LEISURE  
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# NATIONAL LEISURE HOURS INSTITUTION

*"The Dopolavoro is a work of peace  
which performs a sublime mission of  
fraternity, love and civilisation."*

MUSSOLINI

SOCIETÀ EDITRICE DI NOVISSIMA  
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# THE INSTITUTION

## *SPIRIT AND NATURE OF THE O.N.D.*

The Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro is included in the vast activity initiated by the Regime for the assistance of the workers and, in practice, is one of the most modern social institutions in as much as it solves the problem of the workers' leisure hours on the one hand, and, on the other, penetrates the masses for their physical, intellectual and moral betterment.

Established by the Duce in 1925, it may be said that, at present, it represents one of the most active and original institutions of the Fascist Regime and, both in spirit and in practice, is one of the most potent methods for social education and civil progress.

It should be clearly distinguished from the other similar institutions, which preceded it in Italy and abroad, for its essentially popular character and above all in that it is not the expression of an out-of-date and humiliating humanitarianism, but rather a manifestation of the in-

terest the State takes in its citizens and particularly in the workers.

The results of the first ten years of the Dopolavoro have been such as to command the attention of the whole civilised world and many nations, such as England, Germany, Austria, etc., following the example and criterion set by Italy, have, themselves, established institutions which demonstrate clearly the origin of the idea which was first put into practice in Italy.

In Italy, the spirit of the Dopolavoro was born from the doctrine and concepts of Fascism, in which the worker is not considered as a sort of sub-species of the human race requiring special attention from the ruling classes, but as the producer of national wealth and, therefore, worthy of assistance towards self-improvement in order to enjoy the benefits of progress and modern civilisation, of being educated and elevated mentally so as to be able to participate in the life of the State from which he no longer feels detached, but rather an essential and active member.

The Dopolavoro is the workshop where is forged this new citizen — producer. As through the Syndicates Fascism safeguards the workers and their legitimate rights, so in the Dopolavoro the people are daily conscious of the assistance given by the Regime to restore the sentiment of family

life — the nucleus of national society — to eliminate vice and idleness and to utilise the associative tendency of the masses to direct it towards a progressive development in mind and body.

The Dopolavoro may be considered as a happy application of the principle which inspires the whole of Fascist policy: not only to protect and develop the worker for his own sake and in the higher interests of the Nation, but also to safeguard and enrich his leisure hours, utilising them to preserve and build up the physical and mental energy of the individual through physical and moral instruction, and always in the supreme interests of the Nation.

The Italy of Benito Mussolini was the first country in the world that, with a realistic vision, united the activity of protection in the moral field to that of protection of all the workers' interests in the economic field, and has provided the means suitable for elevating the mentality, the customs, and ways of living, secure in the knowledge that thereby all the most legitimate aspirations of the workers would be satisfied.

It is these distinctive characteristics which, as has already been said, make the O.N.D. a new institution within the social complex and differentiate it clearly from the pseudo-humanitarianism of the former democracy. All after-work activities are co-ordinated and grouped within the

organisation of the Dopolavoro which, for its purposes, utilises largely every form of development, every means of education that modern civilisation and progress offer.

The O.N.D., in fact, assembles groups and organises, towards a single objective, the artistic, cultural and sports manifestations which arise among the people as a spiritual necessity, and co-ordinate, increase and develop them. The activities of the O.N.D., established in large groups, may be comprised in three categories: Culture, Education, Physical Training and Social Assistance.

Cultural education is carried out by means of vocational instruction, whereby the technique of the worker is developed and improved through holiday and evening courses and practical improvement, for which purpose the pre-existing vocational schools are utilised. To complete this technical and vocational instruction, fixed and circulating libraries have been established, containing adequate instructive and educational literature, also evening courses in elementary, supplementary and general instruction have been initiated and lectures, agreeable talks and competitions with prizes for publications relative to the activities of the Dopolavoro, etc.

In addition, the O.N.D. is engaged in improving the orchestras, philharmonic societies and

choirs; organises vocal and instrumental concerts, competitions, meetings; encourages and assists philodrammatic societies in every centre of the Dopolavoro, as a pleasant and efficacious method of raising the moral and mental condition of the workers; groups the various philodramatic societies within its own organisation; initiates national and regional philodramatic competitions; supervises the diffusion of an essentially national and educational repertoire; utilises the Radio and the Cinema as a means of propaganda and education and, in fact, revives the most beautiful and ancient Italian customs and the healthy and vital cult of popular traditions.

Physical Training, in all its forms, is assisted by means of a remarkable sports organisation which reaches from the Capital to the smallest commune in the Kingdom and makes available to the masses that which formerly was the privilege of the few so that, today, millions of workers of every description can enjoy an organised, scientific, Physical Training, ranging from excursions in the mountains to bowls, from swimming to fencing.

Organised, scientific investigation has shown, in fact, that physical exercise reacts on the adult organism, with both immediate and far-reaching effects, provided that it is guided according to a

severe criterion such as inspires the O.N.D. — namely, a harmonious and active equilibrium maintained between the physical and mental forces. Sport, however, as organised by the *Dopolavoro*, is very different from that which is generally understood; it is made available to the masses, not for the purpose of finding champions or producing outstanding types in order to compete for championships, but to give practical instruction so as to show that it is possible, with very little effort, to improve, strengthen and invigorate the physical condition, to develop greater resistance to disease, and, in fact, prepare the body for the fatigues of work and, if necessary, of war.

Social Assistance provides for the diffusion of rules for the prevention of accidents and diseases; assists the sick and suffering through dispensaries, special nursing homes and cures in thermal establishments; encourages the construction of small, economic, popular houses; institutes co-operative building societies for the purpose of establishing « garden cities »; suggests all methods for doing away with the human bee-hives, now rightly considered unhygienic; provides study, advice and assistance for all the varied forms of domestic economy relative to the home according to the customs existing in the various

regions; initiates and encourages co-operative consumers societies- co-operative savings societies, etc.

### ORGANISATION

The organisation of the O.N.D., without exaggeration, may be compared to a great factory of ideas and facts which extends throughout the whole Nation as far as the smallest village, and which functions by means of the simplest and most enterprising organisation.

The Direction General of the O.N.D., under the guidance of the President, Secretary of the Party, co-ordinates, supervises, encourages, institutes and administers in this vast field of social education, and its activity reaches as far as the smallest and most remote section of the Dopolavoro.

The Direction General is divided into six Services: Organisation, Administration, Sport, Art and Culture, Excursions and Assistance, completed by a Sanitary Inspectorate, technical and legal Offices, and 15 Regional Inspectors. From this Direction General depend the Provincial Dopolavoro, under the direct supervision of the Federal Secretaries.

In every chief provincial town there is a « Provincial Directorate of the Dopolavoro » com-

prising the representatives of employers and employees; in the communes, the Political Secretaries direct and co-ordinate the activities of the various sections of the Dopolavoro. These sections are run by the institutions and societies operating within the administrative confines of the commune. As will be seen, the O.N.D., through the ordinary officers of the Party, is able to carry out its specific, co-ordinated functions in a general direction and to unite them in the organisation and intensification of all institutions engaged in activities relative to the Dopolavoro.

The Rural and Communal Dopolavoro have a Directorate consisting of 5 to 7 persons and a President. There are about 98.000 directors working in collaboration with 3680 Technical Directors, the Direction General and the respective Provincial Dopolavoro.

It may be said that the Dopolavoro, thanks to its organisation reaching as far as the smallest outlying district, is able to come in contact with the whole national body. Its technical, directive and animating functions, which go to the root of the problems of educational and recreational assistance for the masses, are daily achieving the objectives entrusted to it as one of the organs of the corporative order and one of the organising forces of the Fascist Regime.

Every worker, to whatever class he belongs,



has the right to the membership card of the Dopolavoro which is obtained without any great expenditure or bureaucratic procedure, and which gives the right not only to privileges in the form of assistance, already indicated, but also to numerous other benefits: reductions on entrance fees to public performances, theatres, cinemas, discounts on railway tickets for parties, etc.

In the first years of its existence, the Dopolavoro consisted of barely 280.584 members, while at the beginning of the XIVth year of the Fascist era that figure had risen to over 3 million members, sub-divided into 10.996 sections. This figure is enough to show the superb results achieved in only 12 years by this remarkable Institution of the Fascist Regime. Owing to the extent of its objectives and its vast organisation, the O.N.D. has truly penetrated every city, town and village in Italy as a new and revitalising element in civic life and Italian customs.

#### *DOPOLAVORO FOR STATE EMPLOYEES*

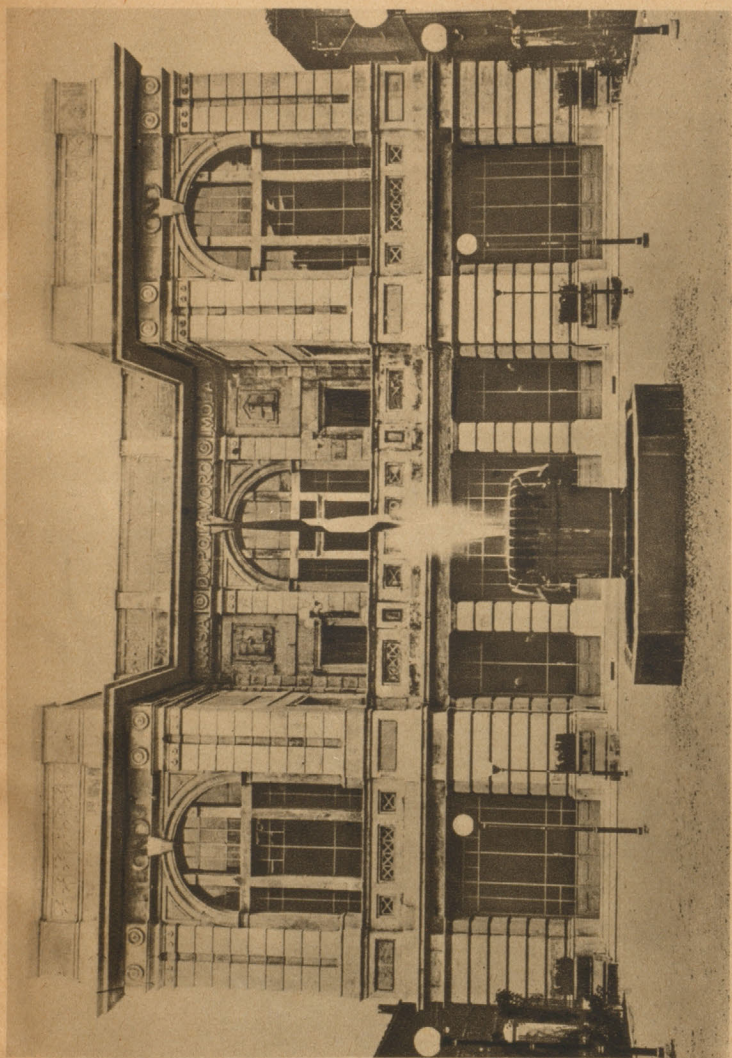
The dependents of State institutions, employees and manual workers, are divided into particular sections: *The Dopolavoro for State Employees*, which, though autonomous from the point of view of administration, are closely linked to the Direction General of the Dopolavoro

in respect of everything concerning organisation and educational activities.

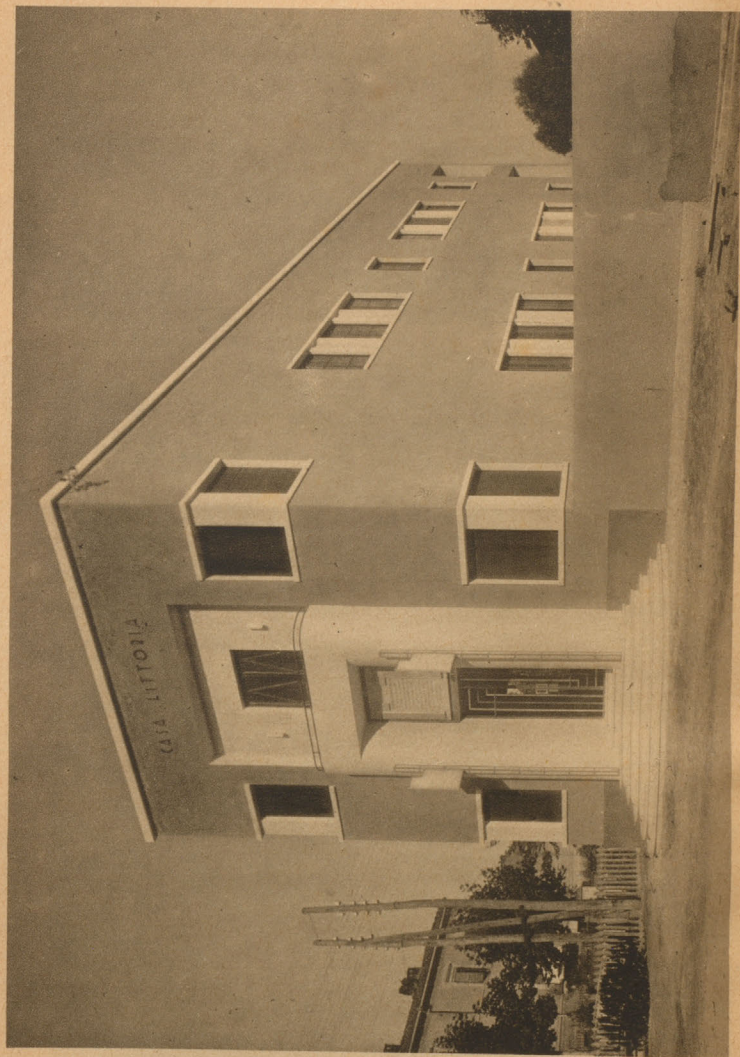
There are four Dopolavoro for State Employees: The Railwaymen's Dopolavoro, Employees in the Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Employees and in the Tobacco Industry, Dopolavoro for the Colonies. Grouped together they comprise 90 to 100% of the dependents of the three branches of State Services and have their own local institutions distributed according to territorial divisions; for example, the Dopolavoro of the Railwaymen in Rome, a magnificent modern building, contains a theatre with seating capacity for 1500 spectators, 100 bedrooms for guests, a restaurant and a café for the exclusive use of railwaymen passing through Rome.

The daily activities of the Dopolavoro for State employees are the same as those of the ordinary Dopolavoro with which they are co-ordinated: marine and mountain colonies for the members and their children, Vocational schools, Courses in Instruction for capacity examinations for the various services, Courses in general culture, Fixed and circulating libraries, Cinema, Radio, Philodramatic activities, Music and Choir singing, Sports manifestations and Excursions.

The Railwaymen's Dopolavoro has, in particular, developed the institution of gardening, due to the concession, by the Railway Adminis-



The Provincial Seat of a « Dopolavoro ».



The Seat of a Municipal « Dopolavoro ».

tration, of plots of land available along the line, formerly unused and now become of value to the families of railway servants, thanks to practical cultivation and the installation of small industries.

### *RURAL DOPOLAVORO*

The Rural Dopolavoro also merit special mention, these sections being composed exclusively of peasants. If the great importance of Agriculture in the Fascist Regime is realised, it will be easy to understand the constant and vigilant interest of the State not only in the maximum development of agricultural technique, but also in the necessary social improvement in the agricultural class which should be increasingly brought in closer contact with the programmes of civilisation and, above all, with Fascist Ethics.

The O.N.D. encourages and stimulates the farmer in his attachment to the land by means of the cultivation of gardens, the breeding of small domestic animals, the development of silk worm breeding and small agricultural industries, etc. The O.N.D. has initiated, and is initiating, specific activities for the benefit of the rural classes, among which may be mentioned the great competition for rural houses which is an essential part of the policy of the Regime.

The object of this policy is to establish a sound, enduring, social structure within the Nation by means of up-to-date and progressive farming carried out by a healthy race, both mentally and physically prolific, lovers of the land and the pleasures derived from the land, technically instructed and supplied with suitable means. It follows, therefore, that the first advance along the arduous path should be made in the direction of the « Home » so that it may correspond perfectly to technical requirements and to healthy rural customs.

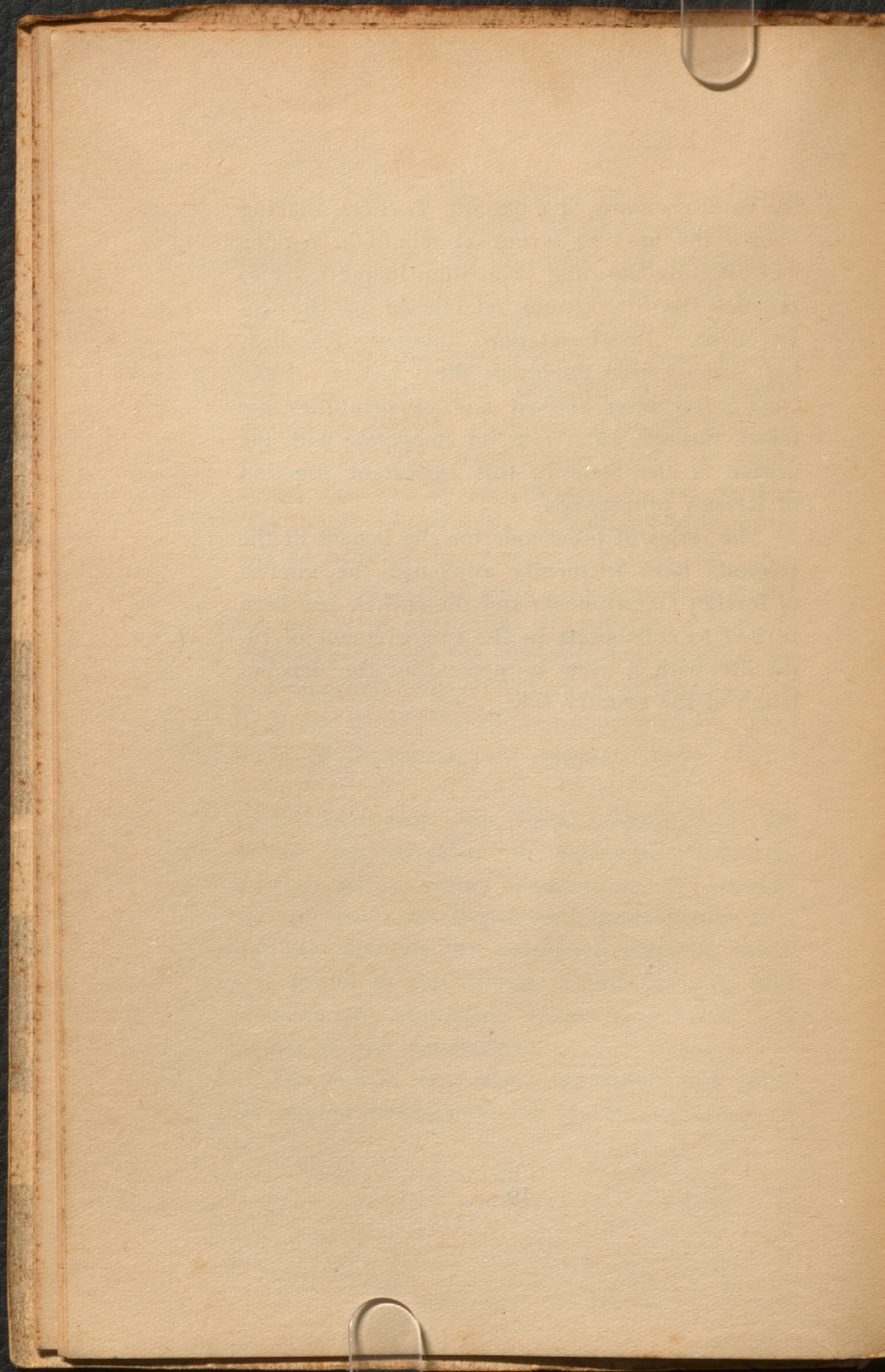
The Rural Dopolavoro, therefore, is inspired by two great objectives: to contribute towards rendering country life pleasant; to improving the technical and cultural education of the peasant by means of evening courses in instruction, theatrical performances, the cinema, radio, libraries, etc.

In instituting the Rural Dopolavoro, the O.N.D. has extended to agricultural centres, through various forms of assistance, the benefits derived from the Dopolavoro organisation, taking into account the particular ways of living and habits in the various regions in Italy and adapting the assistance to the local needs and desires of the population.

The O.N.D. has, also, associated itself with an intense propaganda for the improvement of

the rural economy of mountain dwellers, making known the laws in favour of mountain regions and assisting the rural population in putting into practice the dispositions established by the Government. Re-afforestation, properly-so-called, has also received attention; the « festival of the trees » has been revived and opportunities are taken, through excursions, to co-operate with the organs of the State in this important function of forestry propaganda.

The series of provisions for the benefit of the peasants have frequently awakened the interest of foreign Governments and the O.N.D. has been invited to collaborate in the improvement of rural life with a view to preventing the depopulation of the country side.





# ARTISTIC EDUCATION AND POPULAR CULTURE

The activity of the O.N.D. in favour of the theatre is a part of the social objectives in view and all developments in this respect are considered as a means of civil and mental education.

The work of the O.N.D. is not directed towards making a distinction between educational and ordinary theatres, as such a distinction would be impossible, but in order that the activity of the Dopolavoro in regard to philodramatic organisation should be more specifically defined.

The theatre represents a powerful ethical factor in the life of the people and has an important educational function, whether in the religious dignity of the tragedy or in the more human interest of the drama and comedy and is the expression of the most vital customs of the people.

In the educational field, however, it has a particular character of its own in that its appeal is not to individuals, but to the multitude and it has a powerful influence on the collective spirit to which it is closely allied.

In this sense, the O.N.D. sees in the theatre one of the most effective methods for carrying out its programme. Naturally, the organisation of the O.N.D., which functions during the leisure hours, has taken charge of the whole of the philodramatic movement which, it is true, represents the theatre in a minor degree, but is spontaneous and meets the requirements of the people in as much as it has arisen to satisfy the popular love of spectacles.

But in developing the philodramatic movement, there has been no desire to make of it a school, to have recourse to didactic methods or to restrict tendencies. On the contrary, full liberty has been left to societies while grouping them in a technical organisation and giving them an artistic direction which, though maintaining the purely amateur character, is intended to keep them within the limits of art and good taste and to eliminate all tendencies towards coarseness or vulgarity.

For this purpose, the Provincial Federations, established within the organisation of the Provincial Dopolavoro, have, under the Central Direction which co-ordinates the movement, facilitated the development of philodramatic societies and assisted, supervised and organised in practice.

The directorate of these Federations consists

of the most highly esteemed Directors of the philodramatic societies and a president, who is an expert, appointed by the Dopolavoro, from outside the philodramatic movement. Their action is to stimulate and supervise. They guarantee the existence of the societies, preventing the passage of individuals from one association to another during the year; they supervise the members in the exercise of their activity so that their personal ambitions and aspirations shall not hinder the development of the societies as a whole; they supervise rehearsals, revise repertoires and suggest, through a commission of readers appointed by them, the works that should be performed and the young actors who are worthy of trial. They initiate lectures on the history of the theatre, technical lectures on scenery, lighting and, by means of a theatrical library, provide the federal groups with sources of information not only on new comedies, but also on the most up-to-date technical and artistic theatrical studies.

Many of these Provincial Federations have established Dramatic Schools the object of which is to give polish to novices and improve their delivery.

These schools are in the charge of experts and have an extensive programme as may be seen from examining their organisation and curriculum: pitch of the voice; breathing exercises; or-

theory; diction; reading; bearing; gesture; dancing and fencing; gymnastics; recitation; interpretation; make-up; history of costume, the theatre and scenery.

Wherever possible, the Federations also open a school of scene designing and painting for trying out amateur scene painters.

This provincial organisation which, as has already been said, is under central supervision, assembles all the philodramatic societies of the province and is the nucleus of the development and practical activity of the O.N.D.

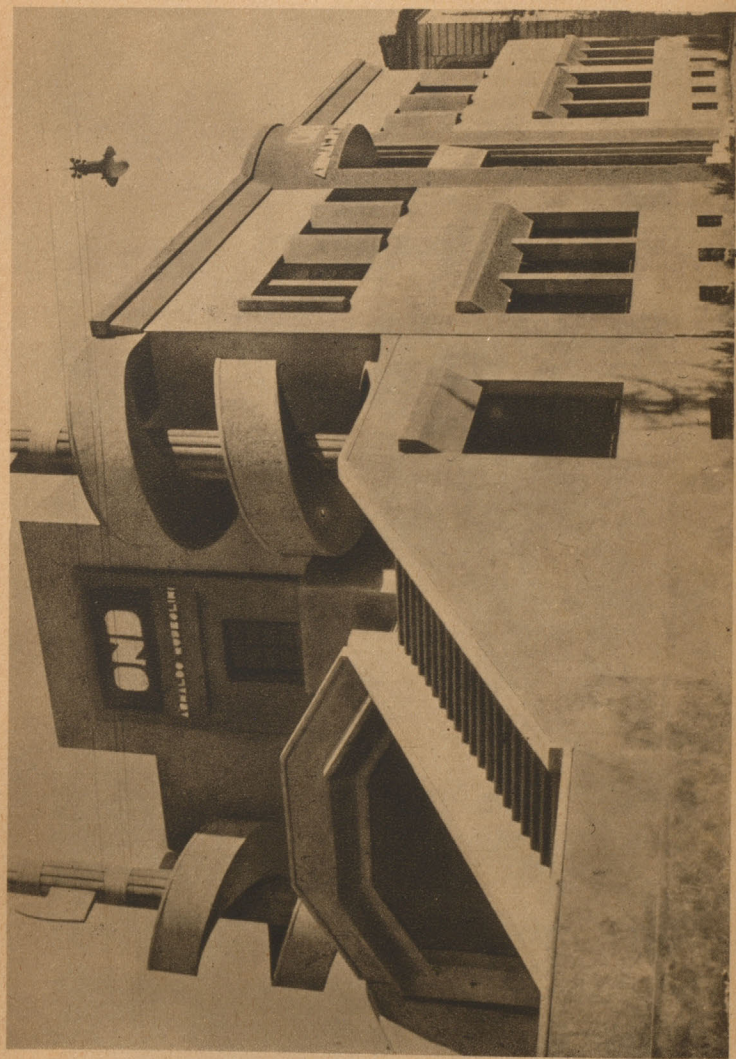
Each Philodramatic Federation keeps a card index in which are entered the names of the actors and their passage from one society to another. A record is also kept of the performances given by the societies. These card indices are useful not only for providing statistical data, but also for supervising the artistic progress of each society.

This strict organisation, as may be seen, excludes all possibilities of improvisation and is the principal reason for the present successful development.

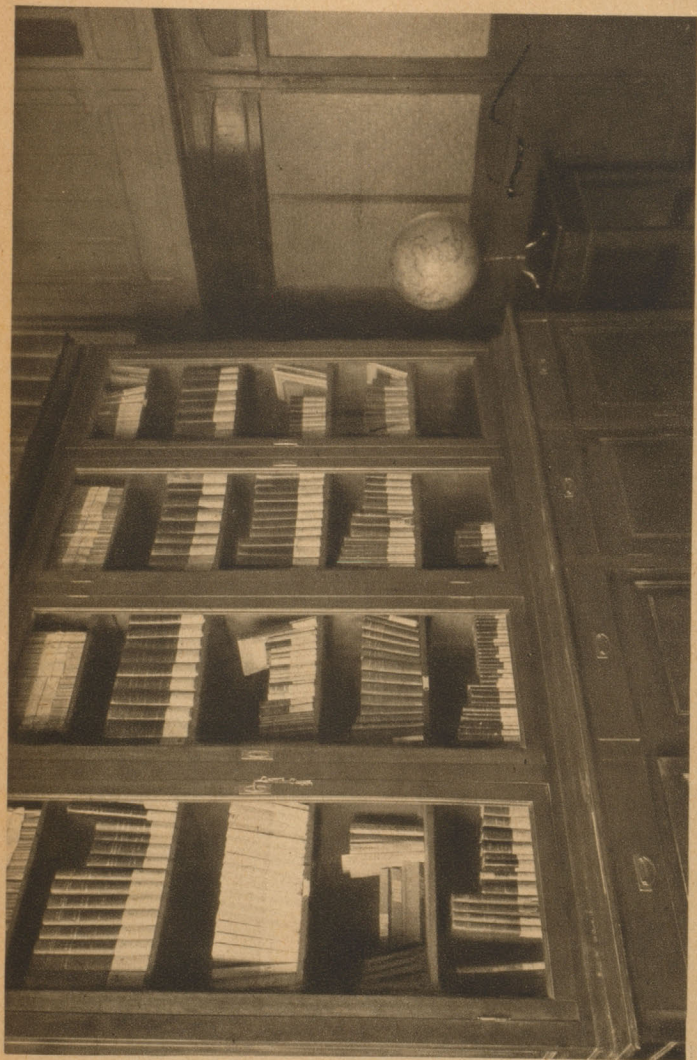
In the philodramatic theatre today improvised actors inspired by vanity and a love of self-display are no longer seen, but intelligent, self-controlled and cultured actors whose work shows enthusiastic and constant study in order to free them-



A private « Dopolavoro ».

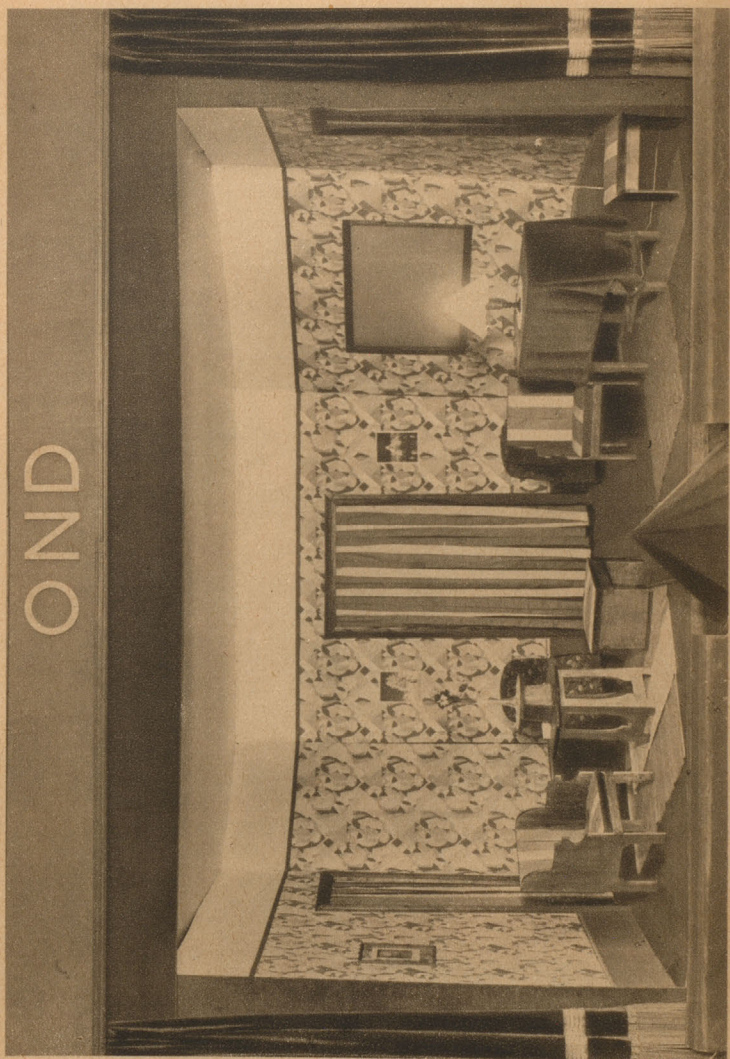


The « Dopolavoro » at Chieti.



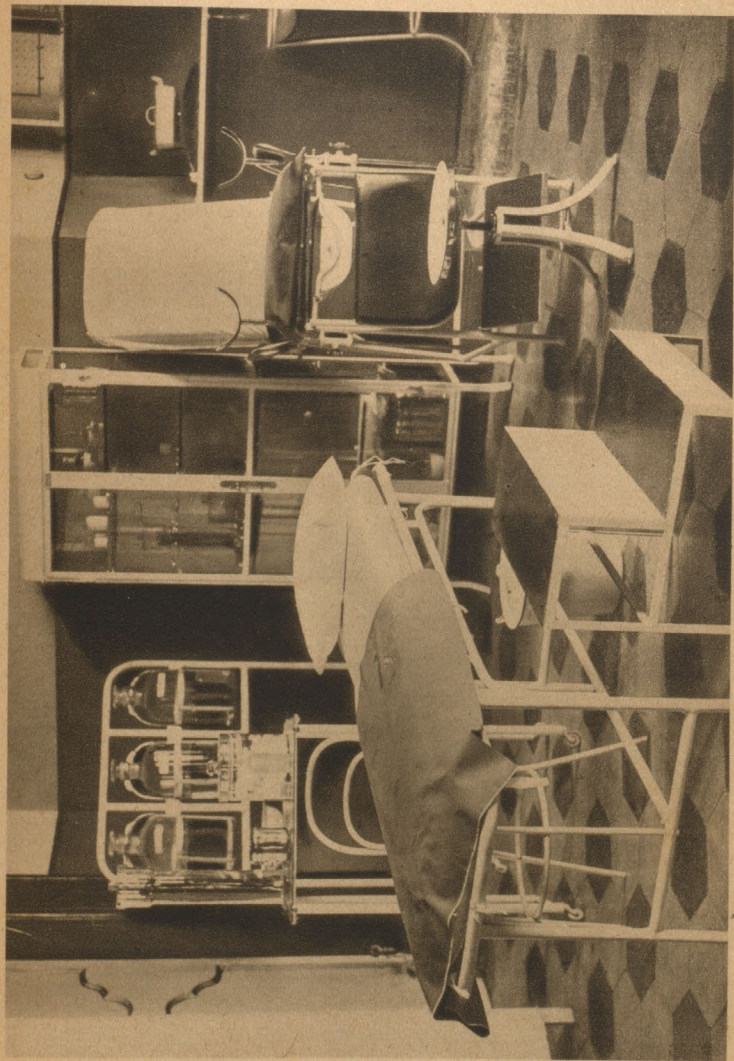
A « Dopolavoro » library.

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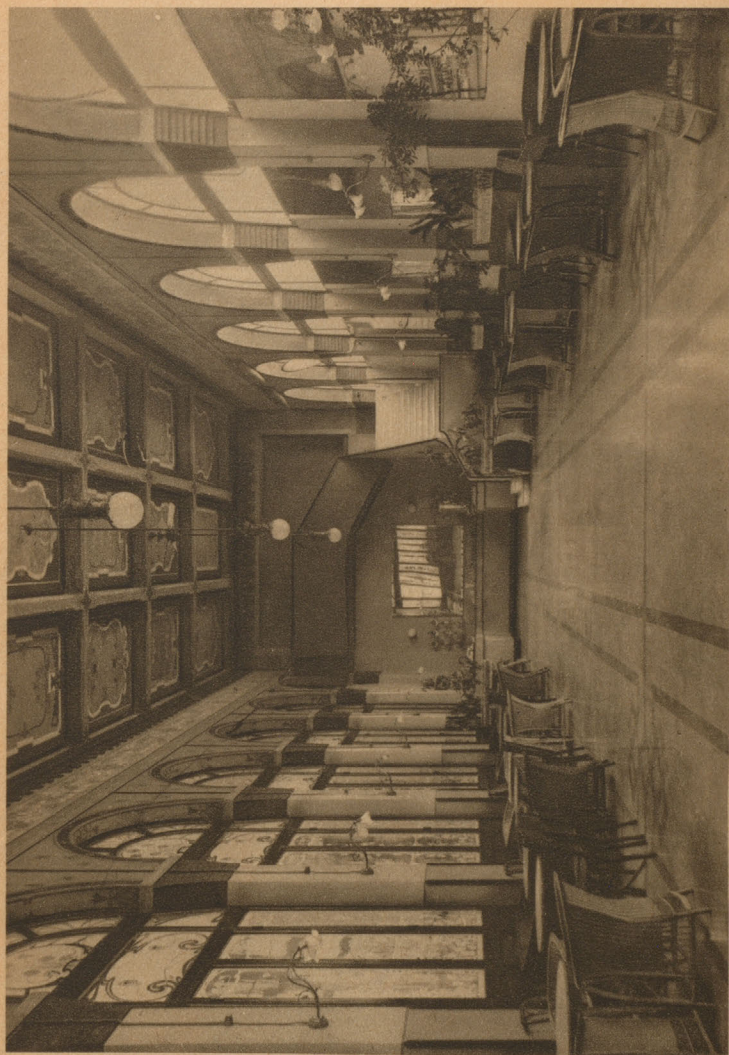


A « Dopolavoro » stage.

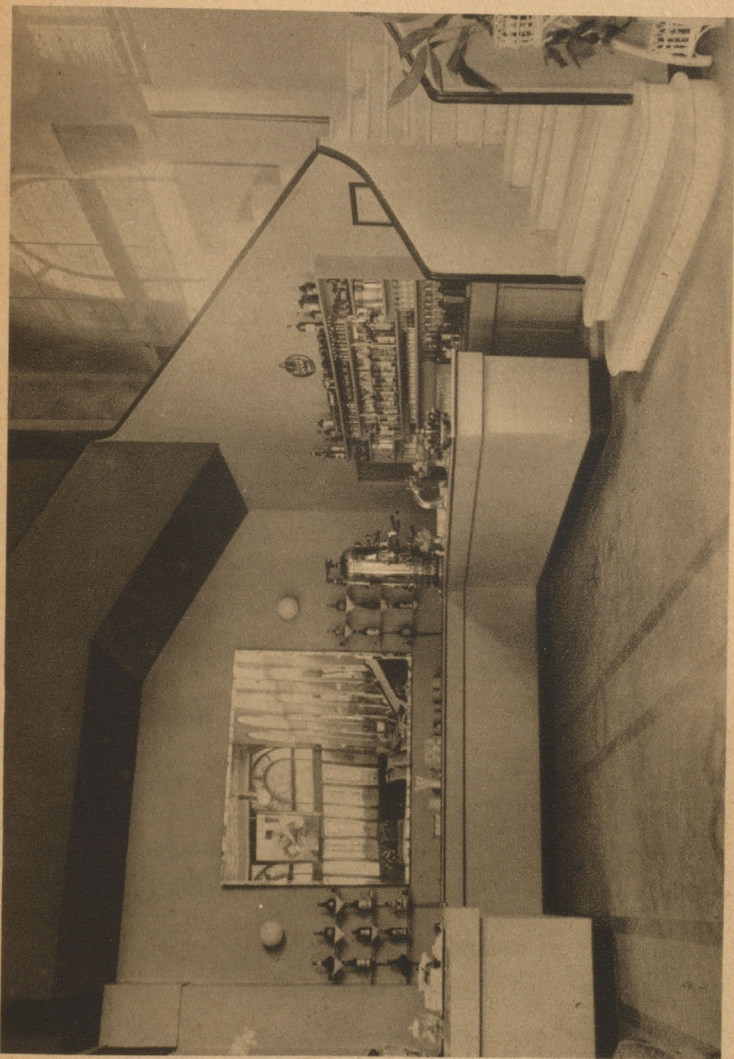




A « Dopolavoro » clinic.



A « Dopolavoro » lounge.



The Bar at a Provincial « Dopolavoro ».



Reading-room at a private « Dopolavoro ».

selves of all impediments to artistic expression.

Whoever enters one of these little O.N.D. theatres and is present at a performance, will be struck immediately by the atmosphere of enthusiasm and confidence and, for this reason, the philodramatic movement may be considered as a new factor in the Italian theatre and a potent means of mental education. It now constitutes a typical theatre for the people and the extent of its activity is remarkable. It has its own enthusiastic public which is not that which usually frequents the large theatres, but is rather the non-theatre-going public. The work of the philodramatic theatre is, therefore, to educate this public in an appreciation of theatrical performances and thereby to encourage attendance at the large theatres.

Apart from the artistic value of the philodramatic movement, attained through a strict organisation and a spirit of emulation, mention should be made of the importance it has acquired in the diffusion of the rules of good behaviour and a correct prononciation of the Italian language, in making known young amateur actors to the public and in its influence on the transplantation of the Italian theatre from the sterile ground of foreign importations to the fertile soil of the popular spirit.

To facilitate the development of this activity,

the O.N.D. has instituted Competitions which give an opportunity for expression not only to groups, but also to individuals. The Provincial Competitions, by a process of selection, lead to Regional and from there to National competitions.

The four National Philodramatic competitions have proved to be a revelation to all those interested in the theatre. To have an idea of the importance of this movement it is only necessary to glance through the « Numero Unico » published for the last National Philodramatic Competition where are assembled articles by the most famous Italian actors in which recognition is given to the philodramatic movement, not only for its social value, but also for its artistic function in contributing towards the formation of the new Italian theatre.

Another problem to be solved by the Dopolavoro was that of providing this theatrical organisation with a suitable repertoire, by bringing up to date existing programmes and adding new works which correspond to present requirements.

#### *STATISTICAL DATA*

The philodramatic societies instituted by the O.N.D. now amount to 2066, in addition, 1227 theatres have been built, 25.000 performances

were given during the XIIIth year of the Regime with 32.000 amateur actors. Four national philodramatic competitions have been held, 10 inter-provincial, 30 regional and 250 provincial competitions. Ninety-four Provincial Philodramatic Federations have been established, 45 dramatic Schools, 10 schools of scene designing and painting, 40 inter-national competitions for dramatic works, and 4 national competitions for theatrical works. The works of 230 young authors have been read and 145 have been performed, and 94 theatrical libraries have been constituted with about 10.000 volumes.

#### *THE THEATRICAL « CARS OF THESPIS »*

The success of the philodramatic performances convinced the O.N.D. that the problem to be solved for a theatrical development for the benefit of the people was that of determining and overcoming the obstacles which at present separate the theatre and the public. After examination of the facts it was found that the problem had an essentially practical nature, namely the cost of entrance fees to theatres, and the solution could only be found in establishing a theatre with popular prices, in fact, a theatre for the masses. This is now the subject of animated discussion. The construction of a large permanent

theatre would meet the requirements of only a single city and not those of the Nation, therefore, with the aid of expert opinion, a travelling theatre was studied, provided with all modern equipment and able to bring the professional theatre in direct contact with the people.

This idea was expressed in the « Cars of Thespis » which first appeared in 1929, before the problem of a theatre for the masses had been included in the agenda for discussions on the theatre crisis. The reception given and the six years of constant success of this happy initiative confirmed the O.N.D. in the opinion that the prosperity of the theatre was not dependent on the interest of the few, but on that of the many, that the principal function of the theatre was not among the intellectual classes but among the people, and that the problem to be solved was, and is, the construction of large popular theatres.

In this idea, however, there was no desire to perpetuate the mistaken system of particular and special theatres such as the district theatres established at the end of the last century and now supplanted by the « Cars of Thespis » which, with that objective in view, have neglected nothing in respect of suitable equipment, scenery and artistic presentation. In fact, the « Cars of Thespis », though travelling theatres, are more adequately



equipped than are many other permanent theatres, being provided with a revolving stage, the « Fortuny » cupola and a whole series of special projection apparatus which render the scenic effects increasingly realistic. The advent of these Cars constitutes an event in the lives of the people wherever they go, are the object of general admiration and study on the part of foreigners who have appreciated their value and have illustrated the organisation abroad down to the smallest details.

It is solely to attention to detail that the « Cars of Thespis » owe their popularity with the crowd and the constant and general success that has attended the six years of their existence.

The first theatrical « Car of Thespis » appeared in 1929 and was inaugurated in Rome (4 July, VII) in the presence of the Duce.

The performance was given in the Piazzale del Pincio, followed by free performances in the Piazza Navona and the Stadium of the P. N. F. Leaving Rome, the « Car of Thespis » started its first tour of propaganda through southern Italy and, during the summer months, visited 35 towns in 13 provinces giving 67 performances.

The success of the first « Car of Thespis » induced the O.N.D. to increase this form of propaganda and three more « Cars of Thespis » were constructed in 1930.

These Cars were inaugurated at Milan, the Duce being present, and began their tour at Gardone Riviera where the three companies performed « La figlia di Jorio » in the presence of the author, G. D'Annunzio.

From there the three Cars started on separate tours, one in central Italy, one in northern Italy and one in southern Italy, giving:

In 1930-VIII - 198 performances in 168 localities  
in 58 provinces.

In 1931-IX - 186 performances in 125 localities  
in 56 provinces.

In 1932-X - 196 performances in 138 localities  
in 58 provinces.

In 1933-XI - 188 performances in 110 localities  
in 36 provinces.

In 1934-XII - 184 performances in 115 localities  
in 44 provinces.

In 1935-XIII - 183 performances in 126 localities  
in 36 provinces.

During the period of their activity the theatrical « Cars of Thespis » have performed 35 dramatic works, with a total of 1135 performances, in the smallest towns.

## OPEN AIR PERFORMANCES

Following the « Cars of Thespis », the O.N.D. organised classic performances in the open air which attracted a large public.

The first trial was made in Rome at the Basilica of Massenzio with the performance of « Romulus » by Giovanni Cabicchioli. The remarkable success of this performance brought to the notice of the public not only a young author, but also a young producer who showed his ability to assemble the elements of the performance in an organic and harmonious whole.

This was followed by « Julius Caesar » and « Coriolanus », by Shakespeare, which were very well received by the public and the press. The production was again entrusted to two young men who succeeded in establishing for themselves a brilliant reputation.

Performances were given afterwards at Fiesole, Erba, the Villa d'Este at Modena and elsewhere.

Open air performances are taking an increasingly large part in the activity of the Dopolavoro owing to the fact that they truly represent a theatre for the masses in as much as they attract an enormous number of spectators.

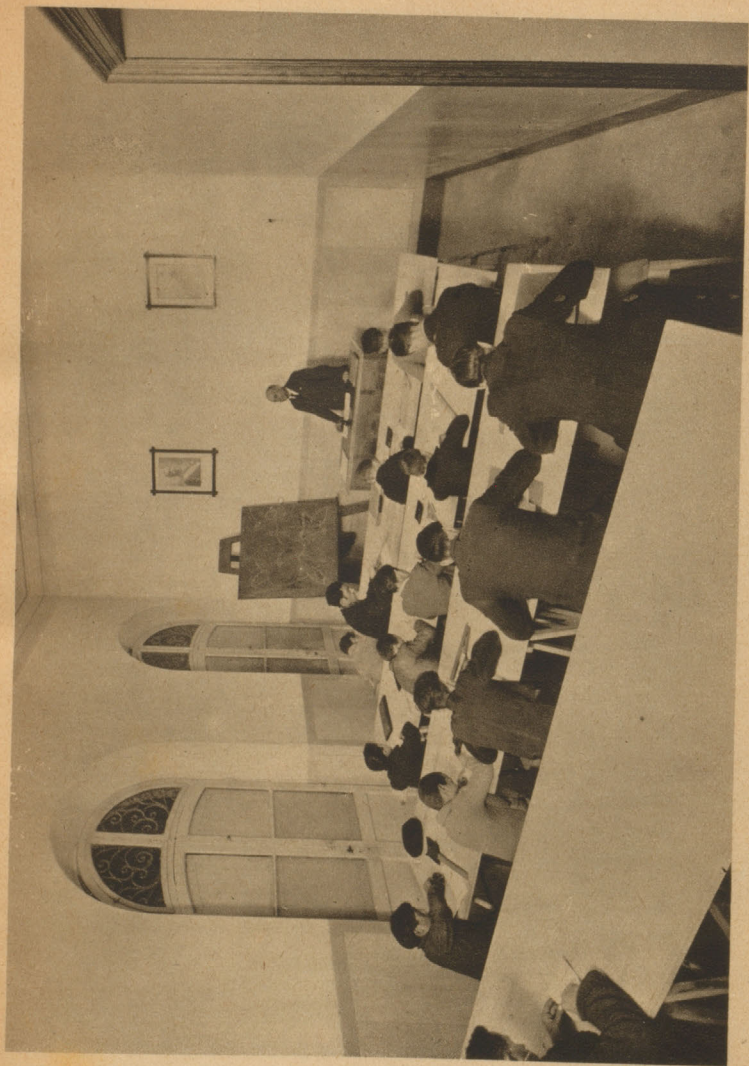
Open air performances are not confined, however, to dramas and tragedies, music is also

included in the programme. Special mention should be made of the « Resurrection of Christ », by Perosi, recently given in the Piazza of St. Mark in Venice before an audience of more than 20.000 persons.

### *THE MUSICAL « CARS OF THESPIIS »*

Among the « Cars of Thespis » the one devoted to music has acquired particular importance. The recitals, in respect of the ability of the actors and orchestra and the magnificence of the scenery, may be compared to those given in the greatest European theatres. The musical « Car of Thespis » of the Dopolavoro is an entirely original type of travelling theatre. The rapidity with which it can be transported and the efficiency in its equipment may be said to be truly a miracle of organisation. Though obliged to change its site almost daily, it has nothing to lose when compared with the greatest musical theatres, being planned and constructed in a modern form on the traditions of those theatres.

There is no question of the musical « Car of Thespis » being a small theatre. On the contrary, the seating capacity is among the largest existing, being composed of 3000 stalls and about 3000 seats in the gallery when, as at special performances at Torre del Lago, Milan, Rimini



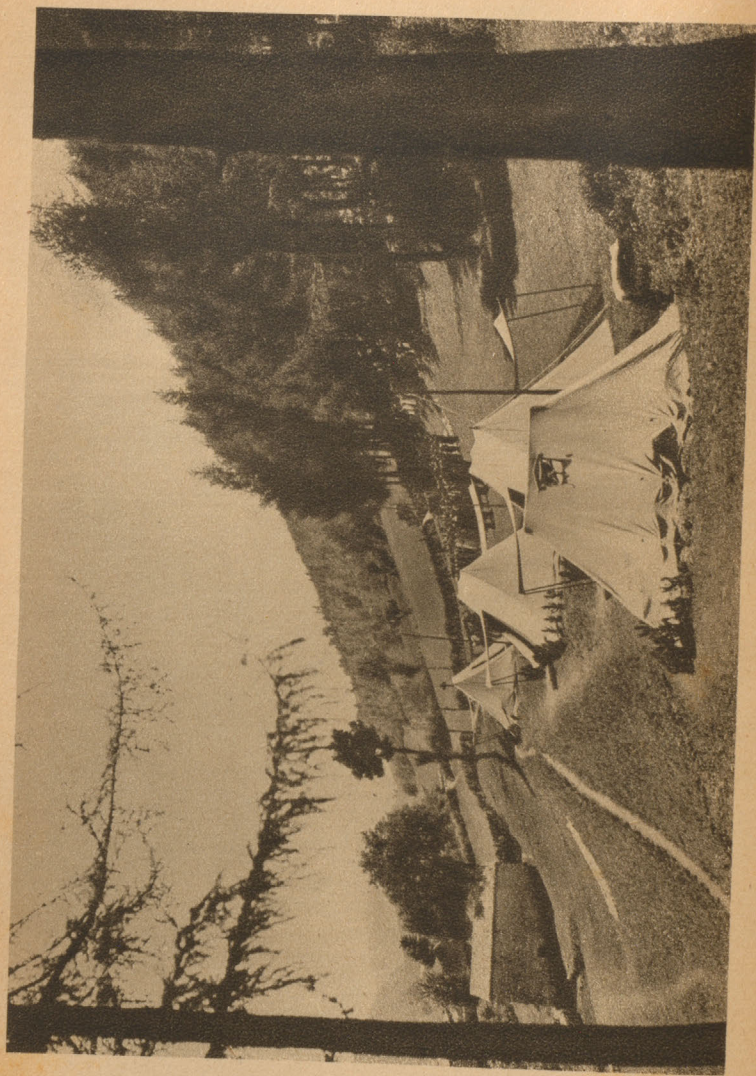
Designers at work at a local « Dopolavoro ».



A « Dopolavoro » Professional School.



A model « Dopolavoro » Farm.



A « Dopolavoro » Camp.



and Rome, it has not been increased to seating capacity for 8000 persons.

The exceptional size of this theatre makes it, in a sense, the forerunner, or even fulfilment, of the much needed theatre for the masses. It has occurred frequently that, in the smallest centres, two thirds of the population, without exaggeration, has been assembled at the «Car of Thespis».

To this ample seating capacity, there was added, naturally, a suitable stage which covers an area of 700 square meters and has a curtain opening of 27 metres across. These extremely large proportions do not prevent the musical «Car of Thespis» from being moved almost daily from city to city or to give, for example, a performance one night in Rome and the next night in Civitavecchia. This mobility is obtained through perfection of organisation and simplicity of construction. The stage and auditorium can be erected or dismantled in a few hours and the whole theatre, with all its equipment, is packed on 8 camions with trailers and transported with the utmost celerity.

In order to facilitate transport and increase efficiency, the Car is supplied with two stages so that while the company is giving a performance in one square, a gang of expert workmen are erecting a stage in another square. The auditorium, on the other hand, is dismantled directly

after the close of the performance, packed on camions and transported to the following square with truly surprising rapidity.

The electric plant, which is constructed on the plan of those in the largest theatres, is mounted on a special trailer and is moved with ease from one place to another together with the electric transformer with which the Car is invariably provided. By means of a very simple method the electric plant is connected with the electrical installation of the theatre in a very few hours.

The admirable organisation of the musical « Car of Thespis » is proved by the fact that, in five years, it has never been necessary to postpone or delay a performance for reasons of transport, nor has it been necessary to have recourse to improvisations owing to the non-arrival of one of the camions.

Whoever has seen the « Car of Thespis » in action has been amazed at its mobility in relation to its size.

The mechanism is simple. The stage is composed of a platform 27 metres long, 18.50 meters deep and supported by a framework of iron tubing, completely enclosed by a tent. At the back is erected the « Fortuny » cupola, spherical in shape, which gives it the property of absorbing

the colours in light and extends the perspective, giving the illusion of distance.

The Car carries with it its own scene painters, equipment, dressing rooms for the principal actors and chorus, offices for the management, work rooms for dress makers, etc. The whole theatre is enclosed by a canvas hoarding 3 meters high stretched on metal tubing. The auditorium is scientifically lighted. About 350 persons are transported with the Car, including actors, orchestra, chorus and technical staff.

An exceptionally complete and up-to-date equipment permits the presentation of any opera and the obtainment of any scenic effect.

The musical « Car of Thespis » is a unique enterprise, without precedent, which, in the light of past experience, is yearly increasing in efficiency while always uniting its social objectives to the presentation of performances of exceptional interest among which special mention should be made of the celebrations of the works of great musicians.

The musical « Car of Thespis » was constructed in 1930 and initiated its activities in the same year with the celebration of the works of Giacomo Puccini at Torre di Lago in the square in front of the villa of the composer, where a special performance of « La Bohème » was given. From Torre di Lago it moved to Brussels where

it took part in the Universal Exhibition and gave a series of successful performances in Antwerp and Liege.

In the same year, returning to Italy, the musical « Car of Thespis » celebrated, at Leghorn, the fiftieth anniversary of « Cavalleria Rusticana », the orchestra being conducted, for the occasion, by Pietro Mascagni.

In 1931, it started its tour with the celebration of Verdi and gave a performance of « Aida » at Busseto, the birthplace of the composer. About 1200 persons took part in this memorable presentation, including some of the most famous Italian singers and among them Giacomo Lauri Volpi. In the same year various special performances were given in Milan, Rimini and Torre del Lago with the collaboration of Beniamino Gigli.

In 1932, Gioacchino Rossini was celebrated by a special performance of « The Barber of Seville » and other special performances were given in various cities in Italy with the collaboration of Tito Schipa and Lauri Volpi.

In 1933, the tour started with a free performance for workmen engaged in land reclamation and building at Littoria, the opera chosen being « Il Trovatore » by Giuseppe Verdi.

In 1934, the celebration of the centenary of Bellini was chosen to inaugurate the tour. A beautiful and artistic performance of « Norma »,

in which the greatest Italian singers took part, was given at Civitavecchia before an audience of over 7000 spectators, many of whom had come from Rome, Florence and other neighbouring centres especially for the occasion. It was afterwards repeated, with the greatest success, at Grosseto, Leghorn, Siena, Florence, Monevarchi, Sansepolcro, Perugia, Rome, Frosinone, Avezzano, Giulianova, Vasto, Sansevero, Bari, Lecce, Taranto, Potenza, Avellino, Benevento, Formia and Velletri.

In 1934 the « Car of Thespis » gave 25 performances of « Norma » with about 5000 spectators at each performance, so that, according to official statistics, 125.000 Italians were able to appreciate the beauty of the music of Vincenzo Bellini.

In 1935, the celebration of Bellini was continued, starting at Fiume with the opera « Sonnambula » which was given afterwards in many other localities during the season. Eighty three performances were given in 51 localities in 33 provinces. The season closed on 14 September with a special performance of « Norma » in Rome and with it ended the official celebrations of the centenary of Bellini.

During the different seasons the musical « Car of Thespis » has given 12 of the most popular

Italian operas and also the comic opera « Boccaccio » by the Dalmatian Suppé.

The result of the 5 summer seasons were as follows: 382 performances in 208 localities before a total audience of about one million spectators.

The season, this year, began on 27 July in Civitavecchia and will close on 1 September after having visited 42 localities in 33 provinces. The programme includes « La Bohème » by Puccini, « Il Trovatore » by Verdi and « La Gioconda » by Ponchielli.

#### *SPECIAL FACILITIES*

To complete its activity in favour of the theatre, the O.N.D. has obtained for its members special reductions for public spectacles so that, on presentation of the membership card, a reduction of 50% is given on the price of tickets.

#### *SATURDAY THEATRES*

In order to assist the O.N.D. in its work of placing the theatre within reach of the masses, the Theatre Inspectorate of the Ministry for Press and Propaganda has given the O.N.D. permission to organise « Saturday Theatres ».

All the dramatic societies are at the disposal of the Ministry for giving matinee performances on Saturday of every week. These performances are reserved exclusively for workmen and employees. The price of tickets may not exceed 2 lire and there is no distinction in seating.

In Rome four performances are given every week, the price of the tickets being 1 lira.

During the theatre season this year, that is, from January to May, 143 Saturday performances were given at which 400.000 spectators were present.

#### *MUSICAL PERFORMANCES*

In respect of music, the O.N.D. has not only obtained special reductions in the price of tickets, as for the theatre, but it has also arranged, with the consent of the largest theatres, 3 to 4 musical performances reserved exclusively for members of the Dopolavoro: in the Royal Opera House in Rome, at the Carlo Felice Opera House in Genoa, at the Scala in Milan, at the San Carlo theatre in Naples, at the Massimo in Palermo, at the Regio in Turin, at the Rossetti in Trieste, at the Regio in Parma and the Politeama Fiorentino in Florence.

## MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Of no less importance, for the educational objectives of the O.N.D., is the organisation of music whereby the activities of amateur musicians are co-ordinated, supervised and unified.

Music, owing to its appeal to the human spirit and the profound emotions it arouses, is an indispensable factor in any educational initiative. But, for any attempt to educate the masses to be efficacious, care should be taken to include every form of musical expression, otherwise it will fail in its purpose.

In setting up its musical organisation, the Dopolavoro has not forgotten this important principle and has made it the basis of its musical programme which ranges from vocal and instrumental ethnophony to the most complicated and elaborate forms of music.

The O.N.D. has revived the ancient and typical popular songs and, with them, the rustic and popular music; has assembled all that is genuine and vital which has been handed down from father to son in Italy; has initiated choirs for rendering traditional songs and special orchestras for reviving the ancient rustic instruments which draw the material for their varied repertoires from the inexhaustable spring of popular tradition.



It may be said, with truth, that the ethnophonic movement, initiated by the O.N.D., has found in the musical groups which compose its complex organisation, the genuine and exquisite expression of the soul of the Italian people. It should be mentioned that these groups, which are the custodians of traditions, do not confine their activities to their own particular locality, but move about from one place to another.

### CONCERTS

To the vast field embraced within the scope of the activity of the O.N.D., must be added the organisation of string orchestras which give weekly performances of classical music either for their own or other societies.

For this form of cultural propaganda, the O.N.D. not only makes use of amateur talent, but also includes, in collaboration with the musical institutions, young holders of diplomas from the Conservatoires thereby giving them the opportunity to show their artistic ability.

So as to lose no opportunity for musical education, the O.N.D. has taken advantage of mechanical instruments and has arranged for musical auditions to be given weekly in every *Dopolavoro*, it has also established evening schools of music with special competitions for

various string and wind instruments, and schools of singing. In these schools, lessons are given, on one day in each week, in the history of music, illustrating the lives and works of the greatest Italian composers.

The Experimental Musical Theatre is an initiative of great importance and has been most successful in its first trials held in Rome. This particular activity, however, was abandoned by the O.N.D. when the musical « Car of Thespis » was inaugurated which took over the task of producing and trying out young singers, and, each year, young talent, selected through public auditions, is tested with the assistance of the some of the most famous musical artists.

Every year, the musical « Car of Thespis » has discovered young artists who have passed on to the large theatres where they have had an excellent reception.

### *CHOIR SCHOOLS*

From songs and popular music we pass to polyphonic singing which is one of the most interesting forms of collective expression. The Choral Schools may be considered as the most direct method of reaching the people. They spread musical culture chiefly among their own members who, through oral training, are able

to learn with ease a part of a determined composition and pass it on to the public.

These Choral Schools are important, not only from the point of view of musical culture, but also from the social and moral aspect as choral singing, as well as being essentially hygienic, awakens a sense of order, discipline, self-subordination, responsibility and self-respect, the members of a Choral School being obliged to learn to keep together, sing in time, obey the director and be conscious of their own particular part as one of a collective whole.

The results of these obligations are incalculable from the moral and social standpoint, to which may be added the elevating effect on the spirit, lifting it above the petty and sterile rivalry of everyday life. All the Provincial Dopolavoro have now established a Choral School to train new talent and form new choirs.

### *BANDS*

Bands have always been particularly popular with the people in Italy and may be said to form part of the customs of the smallest villages as no religious or civil festival is complete without a band.

At the beginning of its musical activity, the O.N.D. found that the bands had been comple-

tely neglected and were gradually breaking up, but, through an intense activity, they were revived and their prestige and importance restored. Programmes were brought up-to-date, instruments renewed and amplified and the bands returned to their former flourishing, proficient condition.

The development of bands and choirs, however, is above all due to the competitions which are held every year in the different provinces, and which arouse a spirit of emulation and thereby an increased love of music.

### COMPETITIONS

At the very beginning of its constitution, the O.N.D. organised the first choral competition under the direction of Pietro Mascagni which concluded with a great choral concert with about 2000 performers.

The first band concert was held in 1928 and, in 1929, a band and choral competition was held which showed the stage of development reached by the O.N.D. in its activity in favour of bands and choirs. At the close of this competition, a great band and choir concert was given in the Stadium in Rome with an audience of 60.000 persons.

The third of these gatherings exceeded the

two previous ones both in respect of size and organisation. Seven thousand performers took part, including 80 bands and 41 choral schools chosen from among the best in Italy.

The organisation of this competition was somewhat complex, six competitions of different categories were held contemporarily in various parts of Rome. Competitions were opened for uniforms and costumes, and band and choral concerts were held for three consecutive days in all the squares of Rome. At the close of the gathering a general concert was held, as before, in the Stadium.

The steps of the Stadium were packed. More than 70,000 spectators were present at this concert, which was directed by Pietro Mascagni, and the enthusiasm of the audience and the 7000 performers culminated in a hymn to the DUCE who was present in person.

These manifestations have not only a salutary character, they are the end and crown of the whole provincial and regional organisation which at present unites the respective groups in the various provinces for the purpose of selecting those which will take part in the national competitions.

The activity of the O.N.D. for the development of music does not end here. To bring forward young musicians, an annual competition for the Violin and Violincello is held at Spezia, a natio-

nal competition for the Piano at Genoa, a competition for the Harp at Lucca and Viareggio, a competition for groups at Genoa and competitions for young singers.

A typical competition is the one held for singers of Popular Italian Songs at Spezia and the competition for Songs and Military marches which took place in Naples last year.

To encourage the development of music, all the provincial Dopolavoro hold an annual competition for writers of short songs and the Regional Inspectorates open competitions for music for bands, choirs and other compositions. The Direction General has inaugurated recently a competition for Operas to be given by the musical « Car of Thespis ».

All this shows clearly the impulse given by the O.N.D. to the creative faculty and artistic ability of its members with a view to subsequent utilisation in its educational programme.

#### *STATISTICAL DATA*

The musical organisation of the O.N.D. consists of 3787 bands with 115.000 musicians who gave 57.000 concerts in 1935.

994 Choral Schools with 20.000 singers giving an average of 14.000 concerts a year.

2130 orchestras with 38.000 performers who gave 18.500 concerts.

Four national band and choir competitions were held, 12 regional competitions, 15 inter-regional and 260 provincial competitions.

In addition, 5 National Competitions for Piano took place, three for Violincello, 2 for Violin, three Competitions for Young Singers, various auditions for young musical artists, a Competition for Choral singing, 120 competitions for Popular Songs and a National Competition for an Opera.

#### *CINEMATOGRAPH AND RADIO TRANSMISSION*

The cinema is considered an essential element in the programme of the O.N.D. on account of the fact that it extends to all fields of activity, from politics to science, from news to works of fiction. It has a great influence on the masses, and gives them a greater understanding of modern life and the world as it is today. For these reasons it is not only a form of entertainment, but also a means of mental and moral education.

In order to make full use of the cinema, the Dopolavoro first obtained concessions for members to attend all the cinematographs throughout the Kingdom at considerably reduced prices.

This was followed by the installation of projectors in many centres of the Dopolavoro and every effort was made to group, organise and encourage all cinema halls showing educational films on their own initiative. With the collaboration of the *Istituto Nazionale Luce* many sports, educational and historical films were made and remarkable facilities were obtained for hiring films to be shown in centres of the Dopolavoro.

In a very short time, the O.N.D. succeeded in opening 628 new cinema halls guaranteeing the Dopolavoro a rich and varied programme chosen from among the best films produced in Italy and abroad. In 1935 alone the cinema halls of the Dopolavoro showed 37.511 different programmes.

To these cinema houses were added more than 760 portable apparatus which are used for purposes of propaganda in various regions and centres of the Dopolavoro and chiefly in rural and mountain centres.

The activity of the O.N.D. does not end with cinema halls but is extended, by means of travelling cinemas, to the smallest centres where open air performances are given weekly, films of a cultural, artistic and educational character being shown.

Technical films are largely used for vocational instruction accompanied by a running commen-

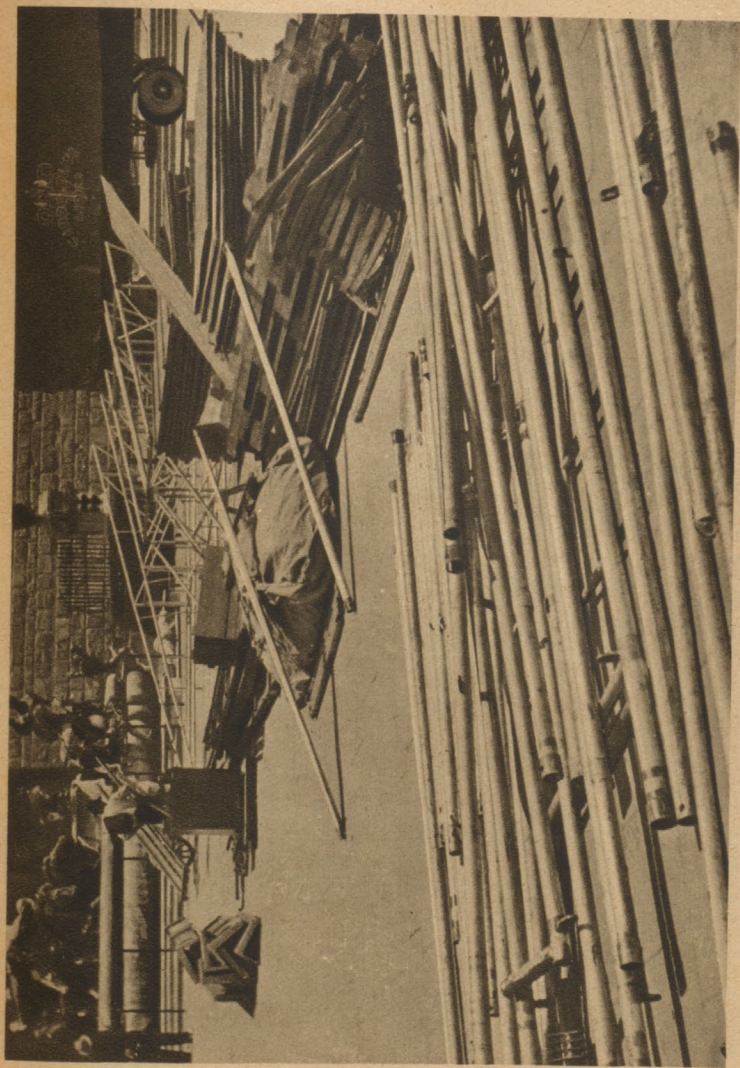




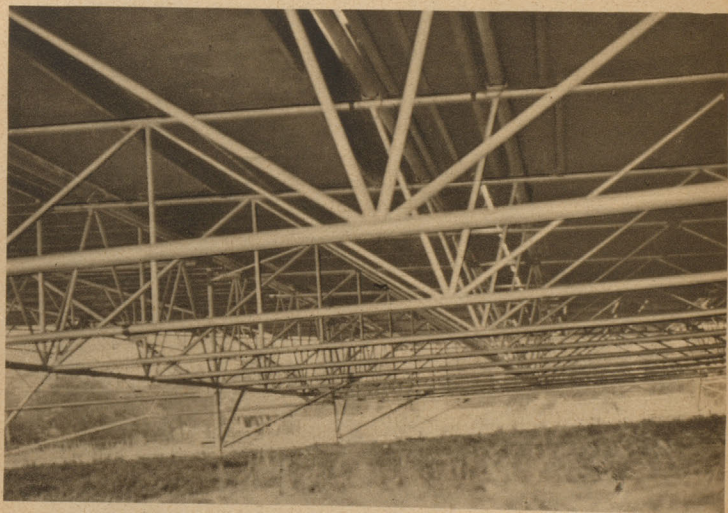
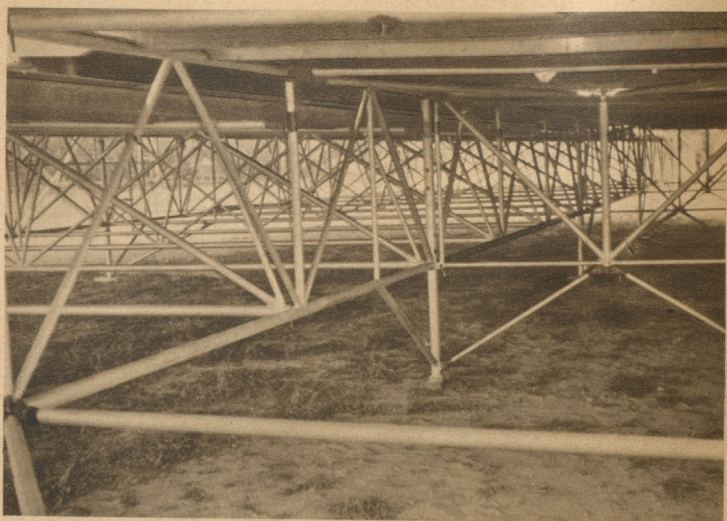
Re-afforestation done by « Dopolavoro » members.



The travelling theatre at a Provincial « Dopolavoro ».



Setting up a « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre.



Setting up a «Dopolavoro» travelling theatre: the stage and the stalls.

tary given by the instructor to explain the processes shown in the film, a clear understanding of the lessons given being greatly facilitated by the use of these films. The accuracy in detail and the close-ups in these films are of great educational value.

To educational films of a cultural nature, the O.N.D. has added industrial films illustrating the various industries in Italy and their relative products for the purpose of increasing the knowledge of national industries and thereby production, and also to give assistance in the choice of a profession.

The Cinema is also used for propaganda in health and hygiene, insurance against accidents, social and agricultural insurance and for making known the most interesting parts of Italy with their charming customs and poetic traditions.

To this is added the cinema for amateurs, that is, the production of films by members of the Dopolavoro. For this purpose a special section has been instituted in every centre for making films of actual places and subjects and the activities of the Dopolavoro.

These sections co-operate with each other and render mutual assistance, utilising the productions of the « Amateurs of the Cinema » for purposes of documentation and making known the work of the Dopolavoro; lectures are given, tech-

nical libraries are established and films taken by members are shown in the different centres of the O.N.D. in order to encourage the spirit of emulation.

### *RADIO TRANSMISSION*

In respect of radio transmission the O.N.D. has also been extremely active with a view to increasing the use of this most up-to-date method of propaganda. Radio sets have been supplied to almost all the sections, chiefly those in small rural centres, so that, at present, there are thousands of sections of the Dopolavoro provided with their own radio sets. The radio is also used for cultural and political propaganda by means of collective radio transmissions in the various centres and in the public squares on the occasion of events of particular importance and, daily, during the transmission of the « Ten minutes of the Dopolavoro ».

The O.N.D. had obtained for the radio sections exemption from the compulsory tax on radios and a considerable reduction in the annual subscription to radio clubs.

Various discounts on prices and facilities in the purchase of radios are also obtained from almost all the companies in Italy selling radio sets.

Radio sets are also frequently given by the

O.N.D., in the form of prizes and gifts to the sections most in need.

Finally, mentioned should be made of the competitions for the construction of radio sets by members of the Dopolavoro.

### *STATISTICAL DATA*

The O.N.D. has opened 748 cinema halls, has 792 portable apparatus and 20 travelling cinemas which, in 1935, gave 37.711 performances. Many thousands of radio sets have been acquired by the various sections.

### *GENERAL CULTURE*

General education is given, as has already been said, through vocational instruction, to improve the technique and skill of the workers, by means of evening and holiday courses and practical work. This is completed by the institution of libraries, both fixed and circulating, and consisting of suitable educational literature; evening courses for persons who can neither read nor write and those only partially educated; continuation courses in general culture, lectures, instructive talks and competitions with prizes for literary compositions by workmen members of the Dopolavoro.

The educational programme of the O.N.D. includes another very important activity which is collaboration with the national organisation for the instruction of adults who can neither read nor write and semi-educated persons, courses being given in every district where even the smallest percentage of the population is in need of this special instruction.

It is a fact that the workman, after attending an elementary school, which is compulsory by law, frequently fails to retain that which he has learnt and the work of the Dopolavoro is to prevent him forgetting the instruction he has been given.

This post-scholastic assistance is given by providing the workers with libraries containing instructive literature suitable for their intellectual development and special courses for general cultural improvement.

Wherever the need is most greatly felt, that is, where the Communes have not established evening schools on their own account, the O.N.D. organises courses in general culture, special emphasis being laid on history and geography, both subjects of great importance for giving instruction in the principal events in the formation of the nation, a knowledge of the national territory and the political and economic requirements of the nation.



In these courses, in addition to instruction in the Italian language, arithmetic, chemistry, etc., great importance is given, naturally, to a knowledge of Fascist legislation, the work of the Regime and, above all, to assistance and insurance.

The courses in general culture are followed by special courses in supplementary vocational training.

In instituting these courses the object of the O.N.D. was not to train new technical experts, this being the work of the industrial syndicates which have given a great impulse to vocational instruction, but to improve the worker in his own particular trade.

The action of the O.N.D. is not limited to instruction, but is supplemented by scholastic assistance for those most in need, scholastic material being supplied such as books, exercise books, maps, slates, etc.

The cinema, also, has a particularly important rôle in vocational and cultural instruction.

This form of assistance for adults is completed by: organised visits to monuments and factories where the technical staff accompanies the visitors to give explanations and answer questions; photographic exhibitions and exhibitions of arts and crafts in which are shown objects produced by members of the Dopolavoro

in their leisure hours and in no way connected with their actual profession.

These exhibitions are not only extremely interesting, but also show the ability of the workers. In fact, in the great National Exhibition of Bolzano there was shown, in the scientific section, a type of electric locomotive constructed by a cabinet-maker which was afterwards taken by the factories at Brera.

#### *COMPETITION FOR STORY WRITING*

To encourage and make known the creative ability of its members, the O.N.D. has opened, through the 94 Provincial Dopolavoro, annual Competitions for Story Writing reserved exclusively for workmen and employees belonging to the O.N.D. There have been numerous entries for these competitions and at times remarkably good work has been presented.

The winning stories have been published by the O.N.D. in book form to serve as an example and to encourage other prospective writers.

#### *LIBRARIES*

All the centres of the Dopolavoro are provided with a library, the size and nature varying according to the category of the members. These

libraries form the nuclei of the educational activities of the O.N.D. Now that the Fascist Regime has awakened the national consciousness and developed the civic life of the people, books have a highly important function, therefore, the O.N.D. has not limited these libraries to any particular category, but has aimed at extending the general culture of the people by making it possible for them to obtain reading material without any financial sacrifice.

From its very foundation the O.N.D. has taken up the question of libraries, circulated articles and publications and kept technical card indices for consultation and the organisation and supply of libraries. At the same time, special discounts have been obtained from publishers and in 1928 a bibliographical service was established, within the Direction General, in charge of the whole question of circulating literature among the working masses. This institution has greatly improved organisation, facilitated the opening of new libraries, brought up-to-date those already existing and given a considerable impulse to this important cultural activity.

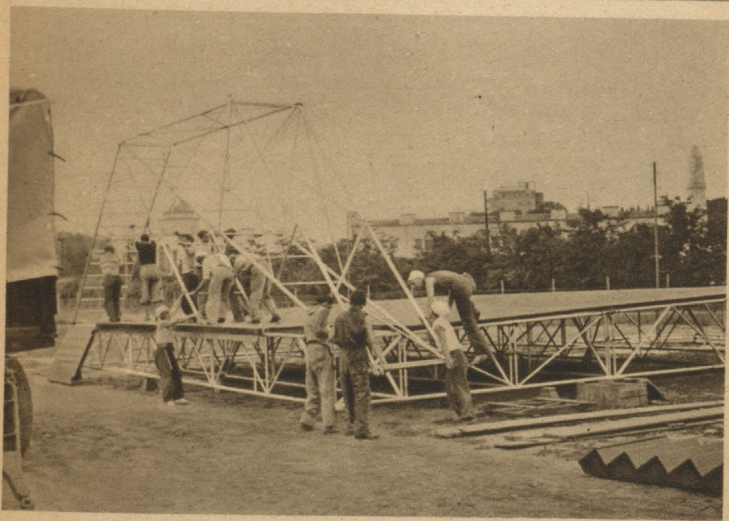
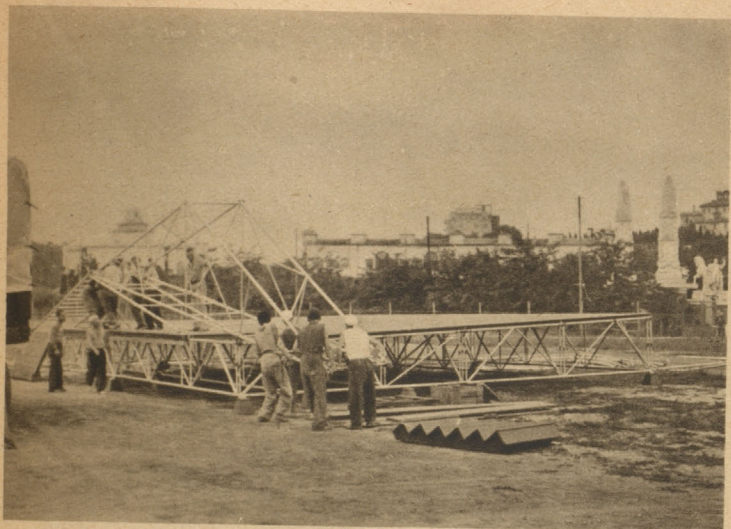
An agreement has recently been come to with the National Organisation for Popular Scholastic Books for the supply of books and bibliographical material necessary for the functioning of libraries.

The greatest care is given to the selection of books, taking into account that a library should be a vital organisation and an active source for the distribution of knowledge. This work is carried out by the Provincial Technical Directors of Popular Culture who adapt the literature contained in the libraries to the needs and state of cultural development of the local population. When compiled, the lists of reading material are sent to the Direction General for approval which, on its own account, distributes annually thousands of books and other publications.

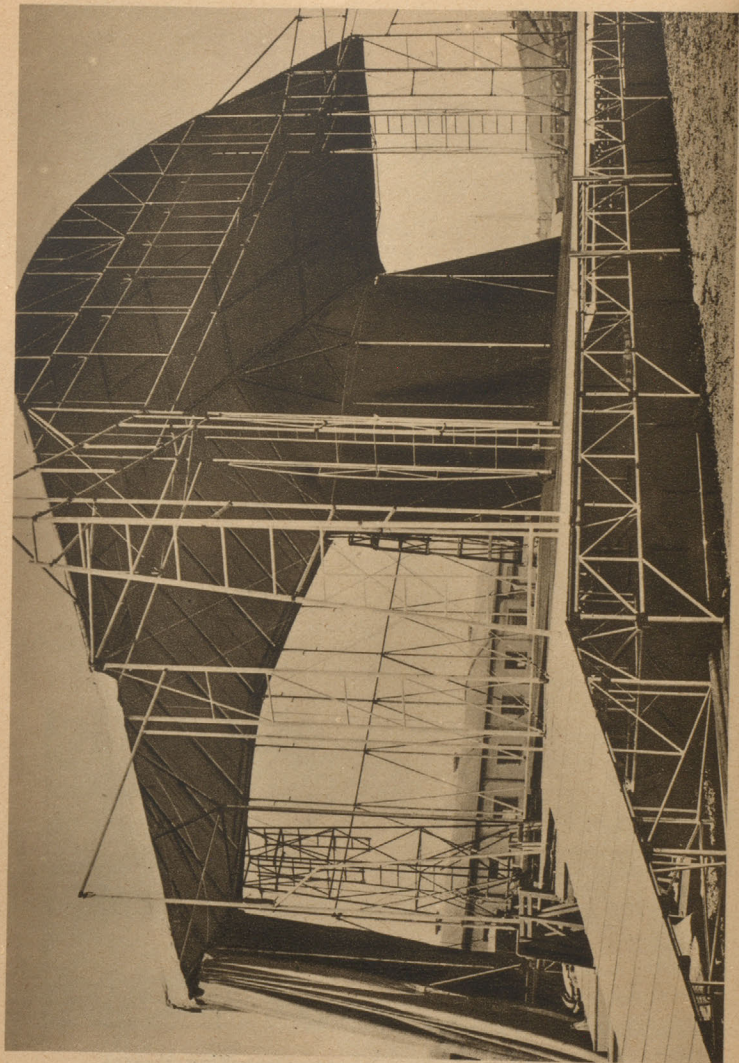
The problem of diffusion of books has been solved by the institution of travelling libraries attached to each Provincial Dopolavoro. These libraries, mounted on suitable camions resembling those of the « Car of Thespis » and the « Travelling Cinemas » of the O.N.D., travel throughout the entire province distributing books and magazines on loan, especially in country districts. This literature is returned, after 15 days, when the library makes its second tour. This « Car » is also supplied with a book shop where recent publications may be purchased.

#### *STATISTICAL DATA*

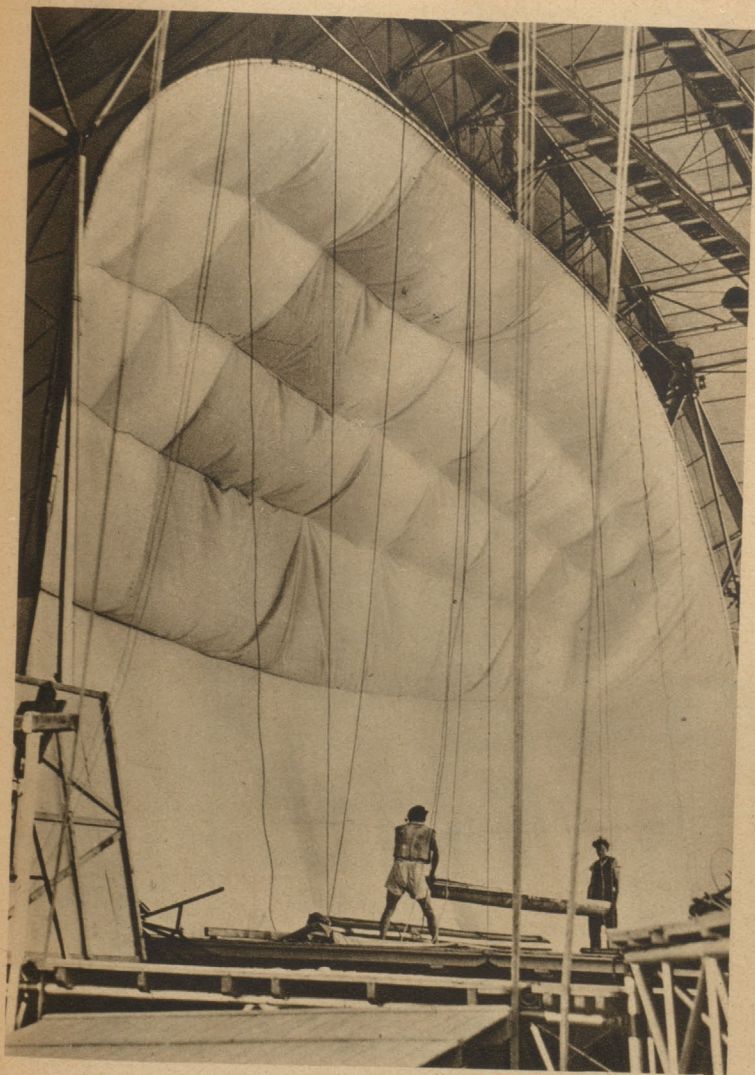
The Associations engaged in educational activities number 8142. In 1935 there were 44.099 manifestations of various descriptions, 936 cour-



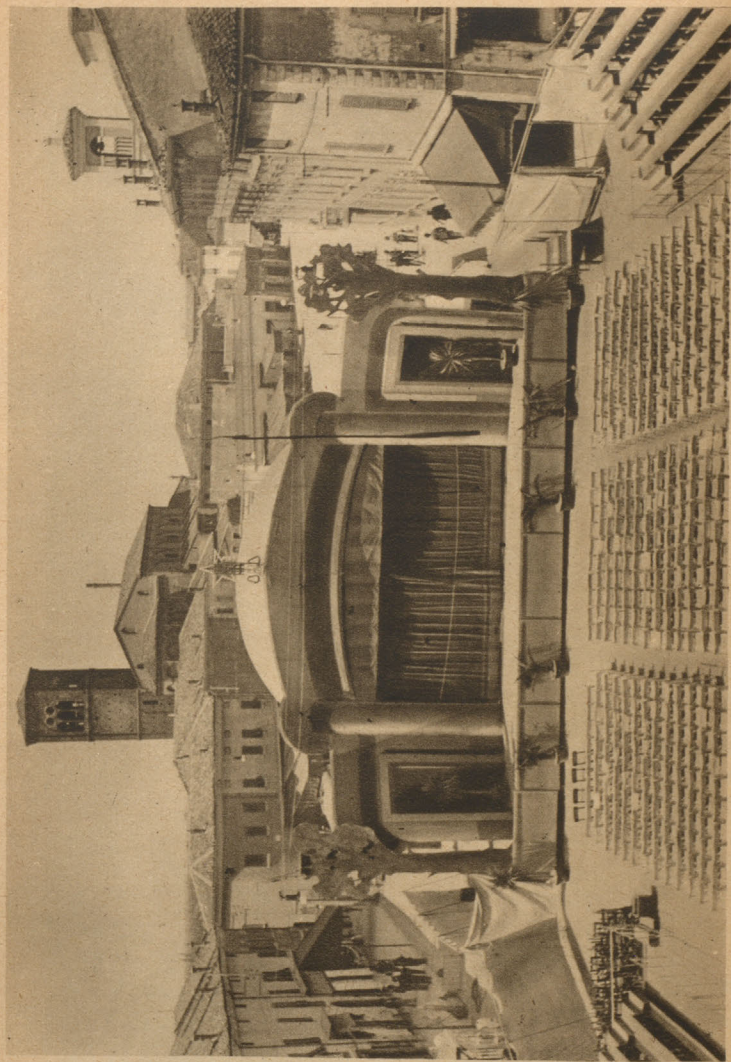
Setting up the stage of a « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre.



Putting the roof on a « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre.



The « Fortuny » roofing of a « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre.



A « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre ready for use.



ses in popular education were given, 978 courses in vocational instruction, 1.577 exhibitions were held and 5.034 libraries founded with a total of 1.118.893 volumes, also 120 competitions for story writing were opened.

### *POPULAR TRADITIONS*

The O.N.D. has instituted and organised, in every Provincial Dopolavoro, a section for Popular Traditions under the direction of a competent staff of persons who, to a profound knowledge of local traditions add a deep interest in reviving the various popular manifestations.

These sections naturally form part of the Provincial Dopolavoro and carry out their programme in every commune in Italy, establishing special associations for reviving popular traditions. These centres of propaganda have organised gatherings, competitions, meetings and rallies for the different characteristic customs as the most suitable means of awakening immediate interest and putting their programme into operation. These gatherings are not, as might be thought, theatrical spectacles, but are intended to awaken the interest of the people in their rustic customs and to teach them to appreciate and admire their picturesqueness and beauty.

After a series of regional and provincial ma-

nifestations, it was considered advisable to organise an International gathering to test the organisation of the O.N.D. in this particular field of activity.

At the Gathering of Italian Costumes at Venice ten thousand persons in costume processed round the historical square of St. Mark on 18 and 19 August and 8 and 9 September, 1928.

The gathering at Venice stimulated other Provincial Dopolavoro to organise provincial and regional popular manifestations. Thus, in the Val Trompia gatherings were arranged of costumes of Brescia, at Campobasso and Ortona a Mare costumes of the Molise, the Abruzzo and Sannio. In Sardinia, traditional popular festivals were revived and exchanges of visits between town and town and village and village, while along the streets of Logudoro, Goceano and Barbagia were seen again long and picturesque processions of Sardinian horsemen accompanied by music and singing, and in Campidano characteristic processions of decorated vehicles. At Matera, in Lucania, were assembled the costumes of the region, ancient popular festivals were revived in Puglia, at Foggia were held gatherings of costumes of the Gargano, at Benevento those of Irpinia, at Formia the Bagpipers of the Campania, at Matese the costumes of the Molise, at Catabua those of Calabria and Sicily.

*PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY  
OF POPULAR CUSTOMS*

Photographic libraries of popular customs have been instituted at the Direction General and the Provincial Dopolavoro.

In one single year almost all the Italian costumes were photographed in orthochrome and also the characteristic festivals, ceremonies and gatherings in Italy.

*THE CINEMA AND POPULAR CUSTOMS*

Another initiative of the O.N.D. was to illustrate the various regions of Italy through the cinema.

An agreement was made with the Istituto Luce and the first film was made in Friuli under the title of « La sentinella della Patria ». A great spectacle was afterwards organised in a cinema hall in Rome which included the projection of the film accompanied by popular songs and music of Friuli.

In the intervals characteristic dances of the region were performed and also certain local ceremonies were demonstrated.

Another experiment of this kind was made with the film « Romagna solciata », shown at the Quirino Theatre in Rome during which the Ro-

magna Singers of Imola sang their characteristic songs.

In respect of the theatre also the O.N.D. has carried on this work and from time to time popular manifestations of the dramatic art, long fallen into disuse, have been revived. Particularly interesting is the Paduan group called the « Ruzantini » which keeps alive the tradition of the type created by Angelo Beolco.

#### *EXHIBITIONS OF SHEPHERD ART AND DECORATED WORKING TOOLS AND UTENSILS*

The O.N.D. has given particular attention to exhibitions of rustic art and has initiated competitions for decorated tools and utensils with sections for the different objects produced by the workers during their leisure hours.

#### *MUSIC, SONGS AND DANCES*

Music, songs and dances have always been, especially in Italy, an inexhaustable source of instruction and education. The O.N.D., therefore, could not omit these expressions of sentiment, beauty and joy from the programme of its activities. Everything still existing among the people in respect of instrumental music, songs and dance music was collected and many essentially popular motives were transcribed.

The first step towards reviving popular songs was the competition for choirs held in Rome in 1927, directed by Pietro Mascagni.

### *THE DOPOLAVORO AND ETHNOPHONY*

The O.N.D. has given great attention to the institution of musical associations, and though the organisation of musical groups of a regional nature was a difficult undertaking the Dopolavoro has been most successful in this respect. For example: the characteristic Redona band, dressed in the Gioppino costume and playing the strangest instruments; the group of « ocarina players » of Porto Maggiore; the « Fregamusoni » (reed players) of Erba — a typical orchestra composed solely of reed instruments —; the groups of Osoppo, Friuli, Istria, the Campania, the Abruzzo, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily.

### *CHOIRS AND DANCING*

One of the greatest undertakings was the organisation of choirs and dancing. For example: the Montanine of Parre for Lombardy and the shepherds of Rovetta; for Piedmont: Castelletto Merli and Grugliasco; for Liguria: the Federation of the « Brigade » of Ligurian songs in Genoa;

for Emilia: the Camerata of Modena; for the Romagna: the Camerate of the Singers of Forli, Lugo, Longiano and Imola; for the Veneto: the « Excelsior » of Venice, the « Ruzzantini » of Padua; for the Abruzzo: the choirs of Ortona and Orsogna; the Etna Singers; the choir of Val d'Anapo and, for Sicily: the choirs of the Conca d'Oro.

### *SINGING COMPETITIONS*

Contemporary with the revival of popular musical traditions, there has also been a revival of popular songs. Singing competitions have been held in all the provinces generally followed by song festivals. The Dopolavoro dell'Urbe, in Rome, has initiated singing competitions in conjunction with the festival of St John. The Dopolavoro of Naples has organised the festival of Piedigrotta; the Dopolavoro of Chieti the « Maggiorata » (May festival) of Ortona a Mare; in Campobasso the singers are assembled on the Matese; the Dopolavoro of Florence, Siena and Pistoia have revived the « Cantamaggio » (May song festival); the Dopolavoro of Padua have organised the Song Festival at Arquà Petrarca; singers of Friuli are assembled at Gorizia and in Sardinia, Sicily and Calabria new popular songs are being written and sung.

## POPULAR FESTIVALS

The O.N.D. has revived and restored to their former dignity the traditional religious and civil festivals in every little village. Many of these have had to be modified owing to the change in conditions. Some have been brought up-to-date and completed. At the « Barberi » races (horse races without jockeys), one of the most popular customs in Italy, horse racing has been substituted by bicycle and walking races, gymnastic displays, football matches and matches of « volata » (a kind of Rugby football) and other sports which, in Italy today, are a proof of the rejuvenation of the race.

Festivals fallen into disuse have been revived and enriched with new manifestations; historical pageants have been revived, processions in costume, regattas, singing competitions, public dancing, athletic competitions and, in the amusements themselves, an excellent means has been found for awakening and strengthening the national sentiment and the religious cult of the people.

Thus, the festivals have returned to life to give their contribution to the public welfare by accustoming the people to a sense of order, self-control, the pleasure derived from effort and bodily vigour — which has such an influence on

the spirit —, mental energy, enthusiasm, and, at the same time, eliminating idleness, frivolity and vice.

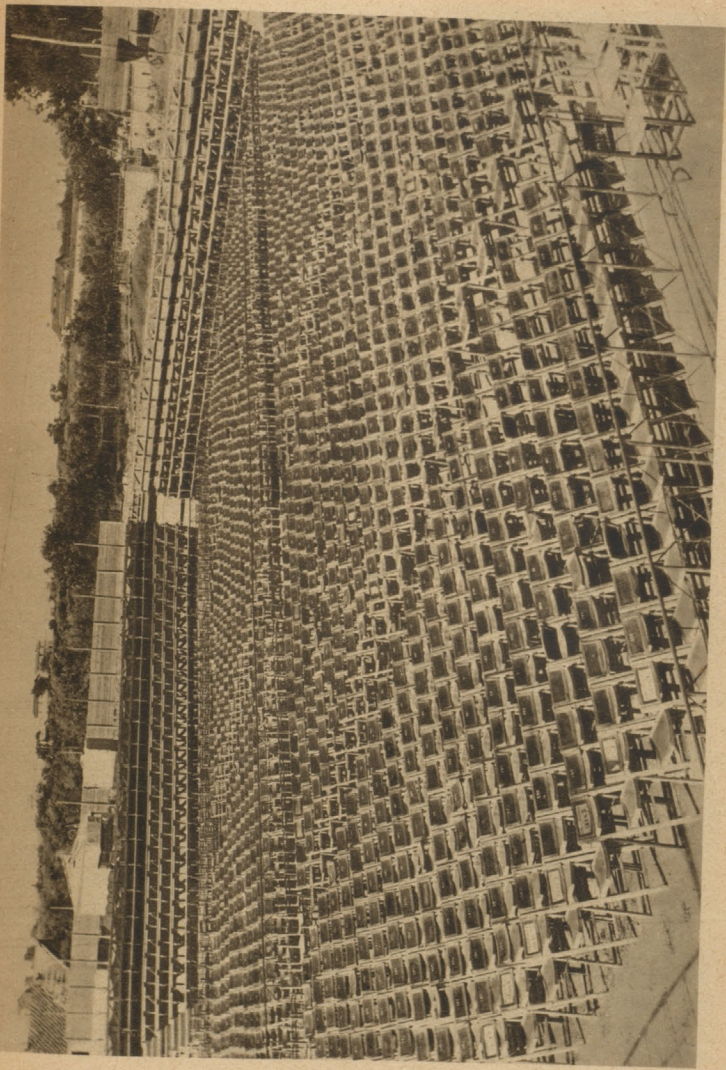
Although at present in the initial stage, it is certain that there will be a great revival of popular festivals and, in the words of the DUCE, it may be said that « We have revived and cherished all those traditional manifestations which make the spirit happy and healthy ».

The festivals of the Patrons Saints are now celebrated with the grandeur of times past and again, may be seen the ships, triumphal cars, funeral processions, mystery plays, nuptial processions, the living statues, the lilies, the « cilli », the candles, and candelabra, the historical pageants, sacred plays, processional baskets, popular games and all the other manifestations characteristic of festivals which develop the imagination and decorative sense of the people and are the expression of the religious cult and patriotism of the Italian nation.

It has been said, with truth, that the people express themselves through works of imagination and, therefore, find in the arts the immediate means of self expression.

Rejoicing, exhaltation, praise, contrition, faith and even fanaticism and satire are demonstrated through the arts in a thousand delicate ways: in the ex-voto, the offerings, in decoration of

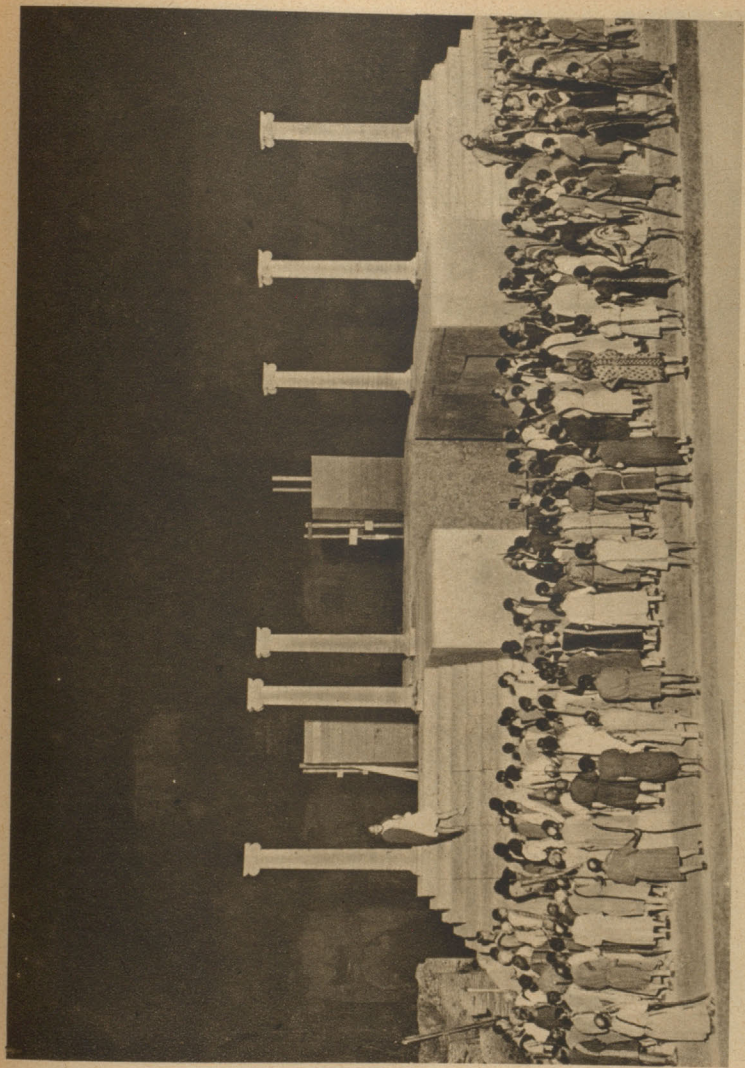




A « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre: the floor.



Electric plant of a « Dopolavoro » travelling theatre.



An open-air « Dopolavoro » performance of Coriolanus...



...and of Romulus at the Basilica of Maxentius in Rome.

houses, streets, balconies, windows and booths and in illuminations, showing the versatility of the people expressed through the most unexpected and original decorative motives.

It may be said that in the festivals the arts are expressed by new ways and means and if at times there is seen a tendency to greater nobility their simplicity in style reveals their genuinely popular origin.

The O.N.D. has taken into account the place of popular arts in relation to festivals and has given them every encouragement. Special competitions have been opened for singing, floral decoration of windows, balconies and window decoration with carpets and materials, and decoration of booths. Prizes have been given to the finest candle decoration, competitions of improvised poetry have been revived, prizes given for vehicles decorated with flowers and flags, processions of allegorical cars have been encouraged, triumphal cars and votive processions have been revived and almost all the characteristic spectacles from the famous Sicilian Giants to the Cilli of St. Agatha.

Popular games have been encouraged from bowls to « Ruzzola » (disk rolling) from comic races to tug-of-war, from the slippery pole to egg and spoon races and the « Rottura delle pignatte » (blind-fold game). Fire-works have not

been neglected. Displays have been revived such as the Girandola of Rome, the Burning of the Campanile of the church of the Carmine at Naples, the famous pyrotechnic machine of the feast of St. Rosalina at Palermo with its celebrated transparent pictures, the paper figures illuminated and ornamented with squibs and catherine wheels called « Pupe ». Other manifestations are the tournaments between the Contrade of Ferrara and the tilting at the Saracen at Arezzo, the horse races at Asti and the contest on the bridge at Pisa, etc.

*GATHERINGS, MAY FESTIVALS  
AND SONG FESTIVALS*

Among the new festivals are the Costume gatherings which from their periodical character may be considered true festivals. These gatherings are a magnificent celebration of Italian traditions and include songs and dancing, music and nuptial and baptismal celebrations and all the external manifestations of popular life in Italy. Among the most important were the gathering at Venice, the gathering in Rome on the occasion of the marriage of S. A. R. the Prince of Piedmont, the gathering of the Malese and the Choir Singing and Dancing festival held in Florence.

Among song festivals may be mentioned that

of the Vicentini Singers, the Praglia Singers, the Zovon di Vo, the festivals of Arqua Petrarca, Modena, Naples, Catania, Rome, the Etna Singers in the Greek Theatre at Taormina and the now celebrated « Maggiolata » (May festival) of the Abruzzi Singers of Ortona a Mare.

### POPULAR DANCES

Dancing is an essential manifestation of the human spirit, it gives expression to the sentiments which stir the soul, liberates the members from the fatigues of daily toil and awakens in man a vital impulse. Its origin is lost in the origins of man himself. It is manifested as a necessity for self expression, as a desire for self transformation, almost as the need to feel the urge of a greater life and is one of the first manifestations of the human spirit, being closely connected with the customs and habits of primitive peoples and is the most important expression of their social life.

Being of an imitative character, it acquired considerable importance in ritual magic and through its mystical nature was of great value to various religions which utilised it in ritual and considered it as a necessary condition for divine communion.

Closely allied to all the social expressions of

primitive man, to his development and beliefs, it has always had a great influence on the life of peoples. Hence the reason that it appears now as a survival of ritual magic or religious ritual, now as an expression of the war spirit, now as a manifestation of rejoicing and praise, but, being a direct means of expression in which the mind and body are liberated in unison, it is always the most typical manifestation of the racial spirit of a people. For this reason and also because it is one of the most popular forms of recreation, the O.N.D. has given dancing an especially important place in its programmes for popular education.

Long and patient organisation and preparation were necessary to rehabilitate the popular dances owing to the difficulty encountered in overcoming the prejudices in favour of foreign dances which had so far invaded the country as to corrupt the conservative and traditional spirit of the rural population.

Complete success, however, has been achieved and now the people have returned to their characteristic dances which are the joyous expression of their sentiments and are a healthy and happy means of recreation.



# PHYSICAL TRAINING

## *PHYSICAL TRAINING*

Physical training, which is a means of developing the character, will and personality of man, has been greatly extended through the work of the O.N.D. by means of sports and popular games and is directed towards very precise objectives.

The competitive sports, in general, which require of the athlete an exceptional output of force, long preparation and careful training, do not enter into the scope of the O.N.D. which has other objects in view, namely: in the first place to encourage the workers of all classes to practice those exercises which develop the physique and improve and strengthen the constitution; in the second place to inculcate into the members a taste for sporting events by means of games, sports meetings and popular festivals and through a more efficient organisation and equipment of Dopolavoro centres.

Within a few years the O.N.D. has awakened

in the working population, of Italy an interest in and enthusiasm for every kind of sport which is without precedent. This activity is not confined to employees and workers in the big industrial establishments, but is extended to the rural population which constitutes a large part of the membership of the Dopolavoro.

All games of ancient and typically Italian origin have been given the widest possible publicity and the O.N.D. has now 100.000 voluntary and enthusiastic devotees of sport.

All ball games, tug-of-war, etc. are very popular with members of the Dopolavoro as these games give them an opportunity to show their personal intelligence, ability and fighting spirit.

The activity of the O.N.D. in respect of sport is not restricted to encouraging the sporting instinct of the youth of the country, but is also stimulate older persons to preserve their bodily agility and mental alertness so that they become the best practical proof of the utility of physical training.

Thus, without any form of coercion, the Italian people are being trained to a healthier mode of living which is the best restorative after the fatigues of labour.

The spontaneous and voluntary collaboration of industrialists and directors of institutions and establishments, who give their maximum support

to the Dopolavoro, bears witness to the utility of sport in relation to labour. Statistical data also show that the sporting activities of the O.N.D. have penetrated to the very core of the masses, drawing them towards the stadium, the sports field, the mountains and the sea, not only as spectators, but also as active participators. This spirit of willing collaboration, found in thousands of employers throughout the country, and the numbers of members of the O.N.D. who are enthusiastic lovers of sport are sufficient testimony to the success of the work of the Dopolavoro.

The sports organisation of the O.N.D. is carried out through a Sports Service — Central Sports Commission — dependent on the Direction General of the O.N.D. The Central Sports Commission initiates and organises national championships and supervises and regulates the sports activities in regional and provincial centres. The Technical Sports Directorates in the Regions and Provinces operate within their radius through the Regional Inspectorates of the Provincial Dopolavoro and organise regional and provincial championships. The whole sports activity of the various Dopolavoro of communes, urban districts, industrial establishments and rural centres come under the supervision of the Technical Sports Directorate of the Provincial Dopolavoro. In this

way the O.N.D. is able to bring to its organisation that essential element for success which is uniformity of direction.

### *BOWLS*

This is one of the most popular games in Italy and has a very ancient tradition. Owing to its simplicity it is a game easily available to all, but requires of a practiced player a dexterity and ability which constitute the interest of the game. It is one of the most attractive forms of recreation owing to its competitive nature and is of considerable hygienic value as it is played in the open air and does not require any exhaustive output of physical energy. The O.N.D. has organised and regulated this game and given it uniformity in establishing the rules of play and has succeeded in making it widely popular among the masses. Bowling greens have been opened in the Dopolavoro in all the smallest villages attracting thousands of players of every age and every class of society.

The competitive spirit is maintained through competitions and championships.

### *TUG-OF-WAR*

This is one of most primitive forms of collective sport and is played in teams. It is also one of the most popular and arouses great enthu-



A « Dopolavoro » chorus from Val d'Anapo (Syracuse)  
performing at the Greek Theatre of Taormina.



A « Dopolavoro » performance at the Basilica of Maxentius at Rome.



Rally of regional costumes in Venice.



A « Dopolavor » t



« Dopolavor » bands cond

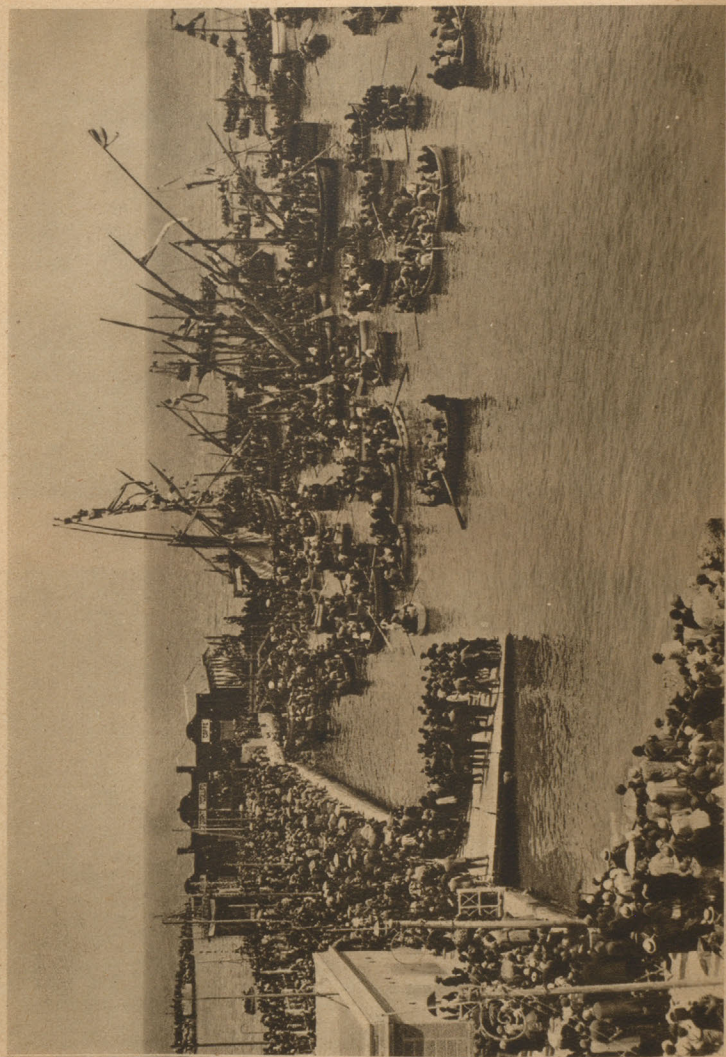




al in Florence.



by Maestro Mascagni.



The Feast of St. Nicholas at Bari organized by the « Dopolavoro ».



A « Dopolavoro » banda in their regional costume in a village in Brienza.



Regional costumes worn by « Dopolavoro » members.

siasm. The Dopolavoro has greatly improved the technique and style and contributed towards its popularity.

The last national championship, which was most successful, was held at Sabaudia in January, 1936-XIV. The winning teams of the various regions took part, and it was noted that the teams most uniform from the point of view of athletic development and in the best physical condition defeated the teams which were considerably superior from the standpoint of weight.

#### *GIOCO DEL PALLONE AND TAMBURELLO*

Both these games, essentially Italian and of very ancient origin, require suppleness, accuracy, élan and firmness of stance. (The former resembles pelota and the later is played with a ball and a bat in the form of a wooden tamburine). They are an excellent form of exercise as they are open air games and develop control and balance in the players.

The Regional, Provincial and Comunal championships serve as a basis for selection for the National Championships which take place annually.

*ROWING WITH FIXED SEAT  
AND SWIMMING CERTIFICATES*

The future of Italy, being a sea-faring nation par excellence, lies on the sea. The O.N.D. could not afford to neglect this important part of the national life and has stimulated the interest of the masses in the practice of aquatic sports, namely rowing and swimming.

Rowing with fixed seat, to distinguish it from the type of rowing encouraged by the respective Federation of the C.O.N.I., is intended, like all other forms of sport patronised by the Dopolavoro, to develop the love of this sport not only among the workers whose profession is connected with the sea, but also among other categories of workers. Competitions and races are held in villages and towns and final championships in the cities on lakes, rivers and the sea. The boats used are those characteristic of the locality and frequently used in daily work. In this way the instrument of labour is transformed into an instrument of sport, but as the boats are generally rather large, they are not suitable for individual competitions, but rather for teams of eight, ten or twenty.

The swimming certificate is a proof of ability and for its obtainment a minimum distance of 1000 meters has been established to be covered in an ample period of time.

## *CERTIFICATES FOR ATHLETICS AND CROSS COUNTRY RUNS*

The tests established for obtaining the certificate for athletics are not difficult to pass so that both elderly and young persons may take part, in fact, the time limit for races is ample and the distance for jumping and throwing are minimum so as to permit a large numbers of persons to compete.

The Provincial displays held in all the principal towns following the communal trials, etc. are an excellent means of propaganda for athletics and serve as starting point for many novices who, through these tests, have been able to discover their own special aptitude.

In this branch of activity the educational principle of the O.N.D. has been upheld, that is, to give physical instruction to the working masses through competitions of a collective nature.

### *GIMNASTICS*

#### **NATIONAL COMPETITION**

The type of gymnastics adopted by the O.N.D. consists essentially of exercises without the aid of trapeze or other gymnasium equipment, and all possibly dangerous exercises requiring long and arduous practice in the gymnasium are banned.

The exercises which form the main part of the Dopolavoro programme are of an essentially natural or instinctive character, the movements being intended to harmonise and give a uniform development to the functions of the body and to counteract possible deformations or bad habits contracted during the hours of work.

The national competitions, preceded by a period of preparation, are held in the open air and serve as a form of psycho-physical instruction for the worker. The programme of exercises is easily carried out by a very large number of workers who have understood their hygienic value and also their utility as a preparation for athletic sports.

Each year the Central Sports Committee organises a National Competition for members of the Dopolavoro including swimming trials, athletics and shooting as well as gymnastic displays. Every Provincial Dopolavoro, according to its possibilities, sends a certain number of teams to take part in the final display in Rome.

\* \* \*

Following the agreement between the O.N.D. and the Italian National Olympic Games Committee, a wide field of athletic activity has been opened to women. The competitors generally are



drawn from the Dopolavoro of the industrial establishments which have the necessary means for equipment.

The first tests of the work of the O.N.D. for women took place at the running heats of 80 metres held in all the Regional Dopolavoro for the purpose of selecting candidates for the National Championship.

After a little more than a month's training, for which the Provinces and Regions entered a thousand members, one hundred candidates were selected and assembled for the first time at Piacenza, last March, to take part in the finals and semi-finals.

The O.N.D. also proposes to initiate similar competitions of a national character for sports most suited to women, such, as, jumping, throwing, basket ball etc., exercises which contribute towards the harmonious development of the body, give agility, suppleness and grace, and are available to all.

By means of a thorough preparation the O.N.D. proposes to develop sport for women in view of its social value and as a method of physical training.

Well trained teams will shortly be ready from which will be selected champions who will then pass on to the Federation of the O.N.D.

*COLLABORATION OF THE O.N.D.  
IN SPORTS ACTIVITIES*

After eleven years spent in sports organisation for the masses, and following agreements with the various Sports Federations which form part of the Italian National Olympic Games Committee, the O.N.D. has arrived at a standard of individual capacity which has given rise to new conditions opportunely regulated by the various leaders. In this way, the Dopolavoro will complete its sports and gymnastic activities while collaborating with the said Federations in supervising and encouraging sports among the members of the O.N.D. and developing the sporting spirit which is inherent in the Federations.

The O.N.D., though caring for all workers over the age of 21 years within the radius of action assigned to it by the Fascist Regime, tries to create the greatest possible number of enthusiasts in every branch of sport of an essentially competitive nature which develops in the specialised individual a passion for overcoming time and distance.

The work of the Dopolavoro received full and unconditional recognition from the International Olympic Games Committee which, in 1934, in plenary session, awarded the Olympic Games Cup

to Italy for recreational sports activities carried out by the O.N.D. for the benefit of the Italian workers.

### *EXCURSIONS*

Among the many forms of recreation mention should be made of excursions, consisting of trips to neighbouring beauty spots, artistic or industrial centres, visits to certain regions and localities famous for scenery or traditions. Excursions to the mountains are also included, not only for skiing but also for patrol marches and shooting trials.

Excursions as organised by the O.N.D. should not be confounded with alpine climbing or touring, but include all descriptions of walking tours, fixed and moveable camps, marches and shooting in the mountains, cruises, scientific exploration of caves, voluntary re-afforestation, popular tours, mass gatherings in the mountains and plains and by lakes and rivers, also tests for obtaining skiing certificates and special walking and cycling trials etc. In fact, a mass movement with the aid of all means of transport, from trains to steamers, from motorcars to aeroplanes.

Through a careful and continuous organisation this form of recreation has become very popular in Italy and encourages the people to seek the

peace and serenity of the mountains, gives them a knowledge of different localities, strengthens the nerves and induces a wider vision of men and things.

Excursions in Italy have reached a remarkable stage of efficiency and attract an enormous number of members of the Dopolavoro who are able to obtain special facilities through an agreement between the O.N.D. and the various State organisations, the railway and steamship companies, and public and private bodies.

These facilities include:

1) Reduction of 50% on return tickets on all State railways from Saturday to Monday for groups of at least 5 persons.

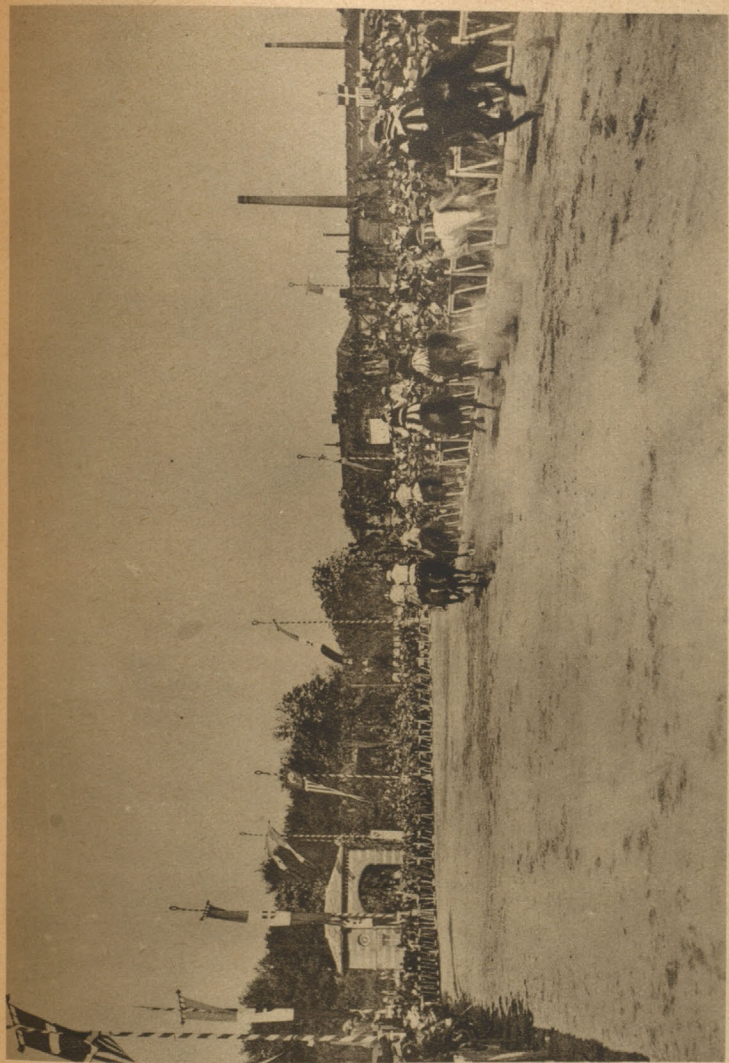
2) Reduction of 50%, without time limit, on State railways for parties of at least 50 persons.

3) Reduction of 30% on 1st and 2nd class return tickets on State railways for groups of 5 members of the O.N.D.

4) Reduction of 30 to 50% on return tickets on secondary railways, tramways and public and private automobile services.

5) Free entry for parties to all museums, galleries, excavations under the direction of the Direction General of Antiquities and Fine Arts.

6) Special reductions in the price of board



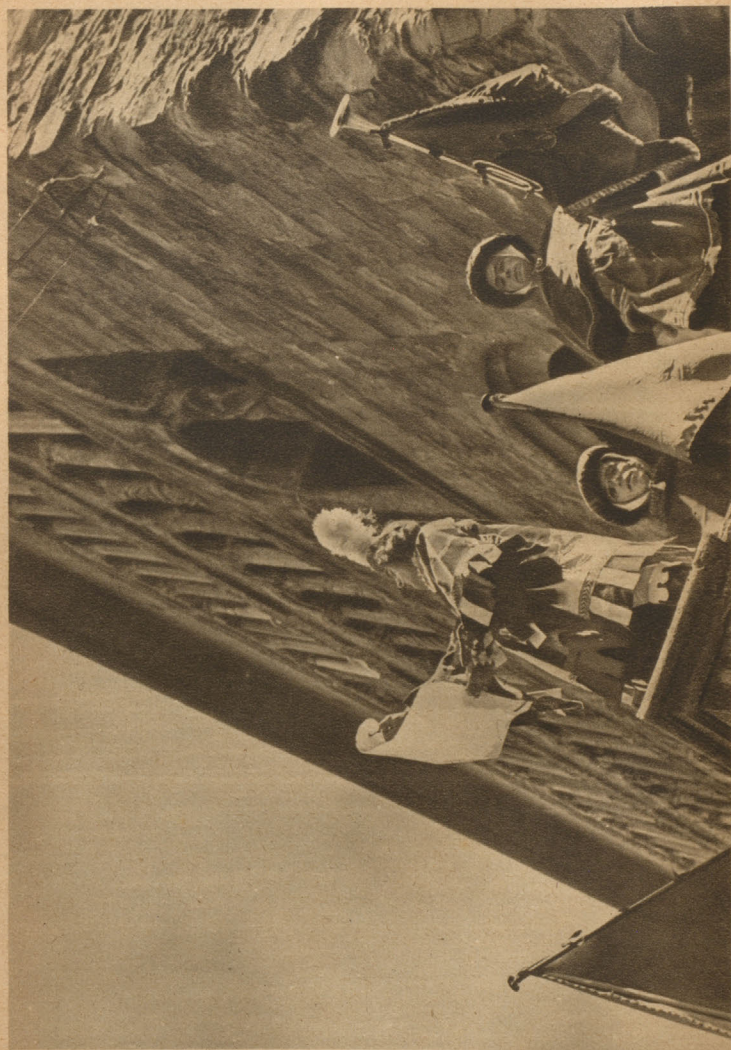
The « Palio » at Asti, organized by the « Dopolavoro » of Alessandria.



The « Palio » of St. George organized by the « Dopolavoro »  
at Ferrara: the flag-bearers.



Traditional costumes in Rome for the wedding of the Crown Prince.



The Saracino Tournament at Arezzo organized by the « Dopolavoro ».



and lodging in hotels and pensions throughout Italy for trippers.

7) Free insurance against accidents during leisure hours, before and after excursions.

8) Reductions varying from 20 to 30 and 40% on the price of sports clothes and equipment.

To these facilities must be added those offered by the O.N.D. itself and which are equally important.

Among the most outstanding should be mentioned, for example, the supply of camping equipment to every Regional Inspectorate for the use of members free of charge for 10 days at a time, also the loan to many Provincial Dopolavoro of motor coaches for trips and excursions. All forms of excursions are suitably developed and nothing is forgotten. In winter, skiing, and walking and shooting matches are organised and at the end of the season a National Championship is held for representative teams. In the past skiing was practiced rarely in Italy and it is owing to the Dopolavoro that at present tens of thousands of skiers assemble on the snow fields.

Every year the O.N.D. issues 5000 certificates to its members which are obtained after a march of 12 kilometers and a velocity trial on a slope.

The cycling and walking tests are held in spring. Certificates are given and excursions in large parties are organised.

On the occasion of the celebration of Labour Day on 21 April, the annual Excursions Rally assembled more than 1.000.000 participators, 10.000 certificates for special cycling tests were awarded to members of the O.N.D. and 5.000 certificates for special walking trials.

To this must be added marches in the mountains of 10, 20 and 30 kilometers, including a shooting match or bomb throwing at a target and archery competitions for female teams.

The month of July is generally reserved for cruises to which the O.N.D. attaches great importance.

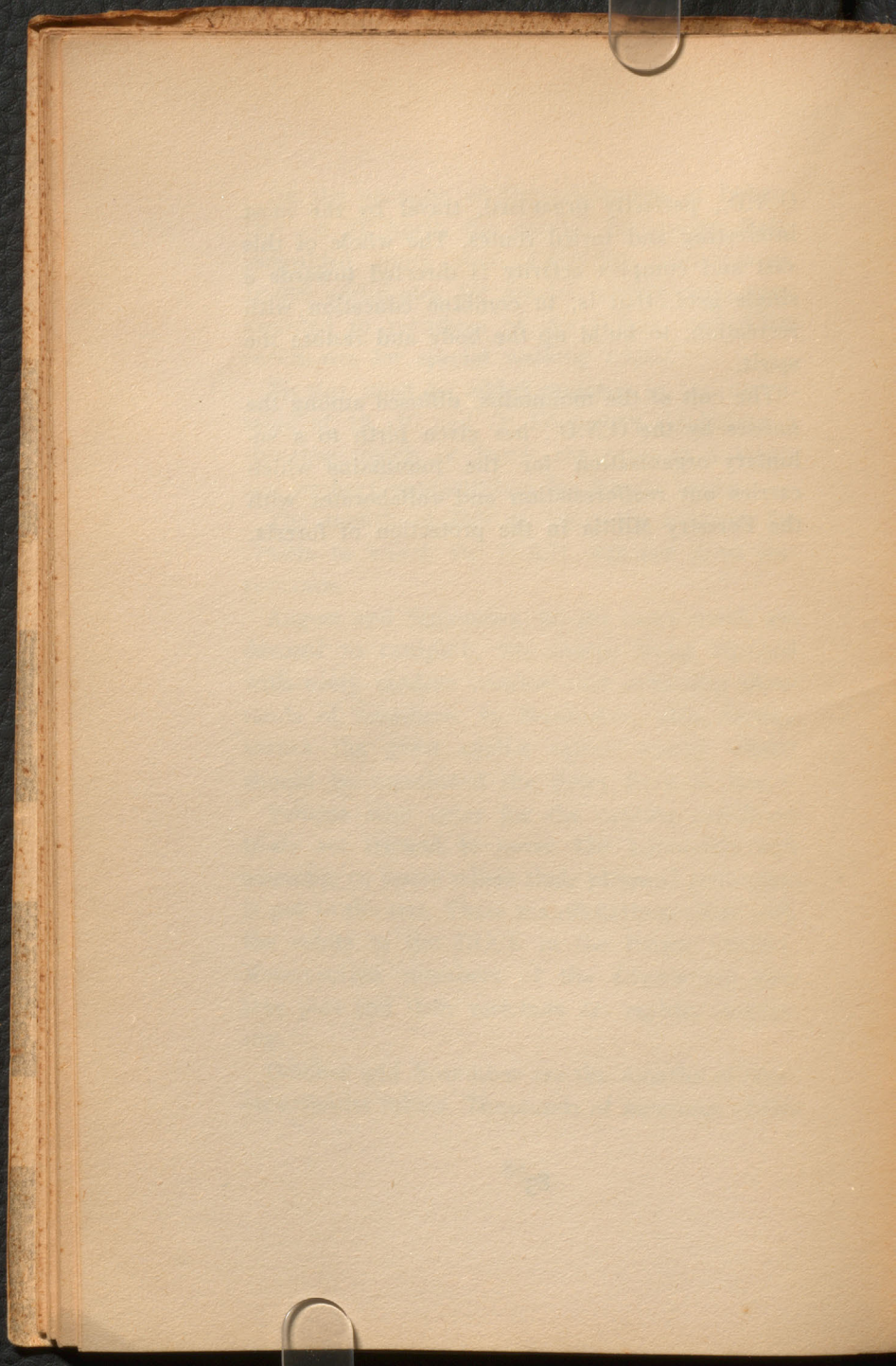
August and September, on the other hand, are devoted to camping, the camps being equiped with every modern comfort and attracting thousands of members. In September, also, recommence the great cyclist rallies among which should be mentioned the Relay Race at Rome.

Persons who enter for the cycling certificate trials are trained to cover 150 kilometers and assemble in Rome where their physical endurance is put to the test. These manifestations close with the salute to the DUCE in the Piazza Venezia. Motorcyclists members of the Dopolavoro also take part and their numbers are rapidly increasing.

October and November are the months of large excursionist rallies. Thousands of members of the

O.N.D., perfectly organised, travel by the most interesting and varied routes. The whole of this vast and complex activity is directed towards a single goal, that is, to combine education with recreation, to build up the body and restore the spirit.

The cult of the mountains, diffused among the masses by the O.N.D., has given birth to a voluntary organisation for the mountains which carries out reforestation and collaborates with the Forestry Militia in the protection of forests.



# SOCIAL AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE

## *SOCIAL AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE OF THE DOPOLAVORO*

The O.N.D., as constituted, is a large and complex organisation for assistance. Mention will be made here solely of those particular forms of social protection and care which are generally indicated by the word assistance.

Owing to the size and nature of the task the O.N.D. has adopted two distinct forms of assistance; one general in character and the other for special objectives. The first supplements and integrates the work of other bodies for assistance the second is applied directly. The objectives in view are:

- 1) To preserve as far as possible the physical, intellectual and moral efficiency of the worker;
- 2) To develop all those forms of assistance for which the organisation has been established.

This form of activity is not easily classified in as much as it is a question of following, and assisting the worker in all the activities of his

daily life. This, however, has been accomplished through the network of the O.N.D. organisation. Aid, advice and comfort are given to the worker and every effort is made to create around him an atmosphere of well being, serenity, cordiality and harmony.

To put into operation the special services necessary for assistance, the O.N.D. has instituted in every Provincial and every Communal Dopolavoro an *Office of Social Assistance* which is open in the evening and is at the disposal of all members. At the head of the office is a Provincial Technical Director for Social Assistance and, in the Communal Dopolavoro, an expert attendant. In the large centres professional men and officials of the Public Bodies collaborate in the work.

#### HOUSES AND GARDENS

Special mention must be made of the initiative for improving the home which has such a marked influence in social education.

The Dopolavoro House which was shown at the Vth Triennial Exhibition at Milan met with the greatest success. This house was an attractive and modern building for rural workers or small employees, available to all at a very low price.

The success of this initiative is shown by the

requests received by the Direction General not only from members of the O.N.D., but also from institutions for assistance abroad.

Another happy and fruitful initiative was the institution of gardens. The idea arose, in the first place, from moral considerations and the wish to supply the worker with a plot of ground wherein he could find pleasant recreation in leisure hours and the possibility, even though limited, of obtaining those food products, most commonly used in a family.

The question has now an entirely different aspect and has become linked to the question of city dwelling.

These gardens should become real small holdings and, in addition to contributing towards the family budget of the worker, should serve to displace the centre of modern life away from the city towards the country. The *Dopolavoro* has taken this idea as the basis of its programme and has had the satisfaction of seeing certain definite results. Through the collective labour contract plots of land in crop growing regions had already been conceded to certain categories of workers. It is not a question of obtaining State owned areas, contracts for which are already in course of conclusion. As soon as this problem has been solved every Italian workman will be able to count on having his garden, the area

being adapted to the possibilities of the family for developing the land granted.

To encourage the cultivation of gardens the O.N.D. initiated its work with a competition in Rome with prizes amounting to 30.000 lire. Through intense propaganda it has obtained that plots of land suitable for gardens should be included in building schemes in the vicinity of factories. A considerable contribution was given to this activity by the Dopolavoro of industrial establishments and particularly the Dopolavoro of the Railwaymen.

#### *LEISURE HOUR INSURANCE*

The problem of insurance was taken up from the start by the O.N.D. which, in collaboration with the National Insurance Institution, has considerably developed this form of assistance.

The Dopolavoro has instituted a special policy covering possible risks incurred during manifestations of the O.N.D. The holder of the Dopolavoro membership card has the right to the following payments: 10.000 lire in case of death, 15.000 lire in case of permanent disablement and 5 lire per day, for a maximum of one year, for temporary disablement.

In addition, the O.N.D. has come to an agreement with the National Insurance Institution for

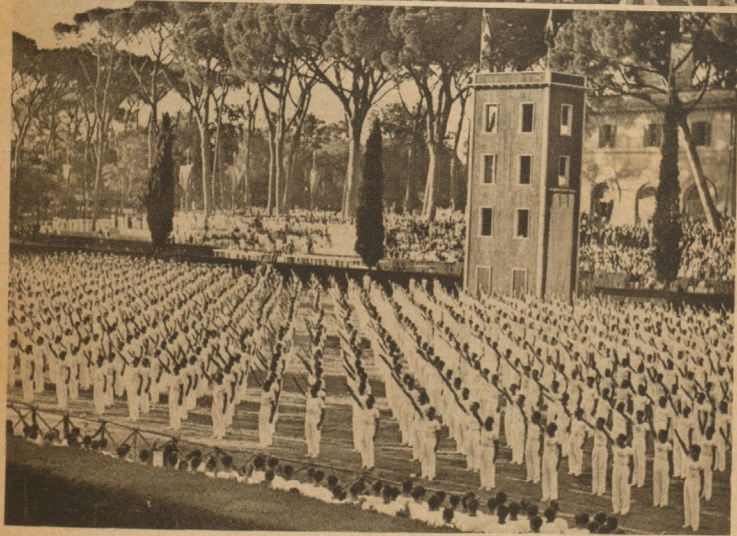
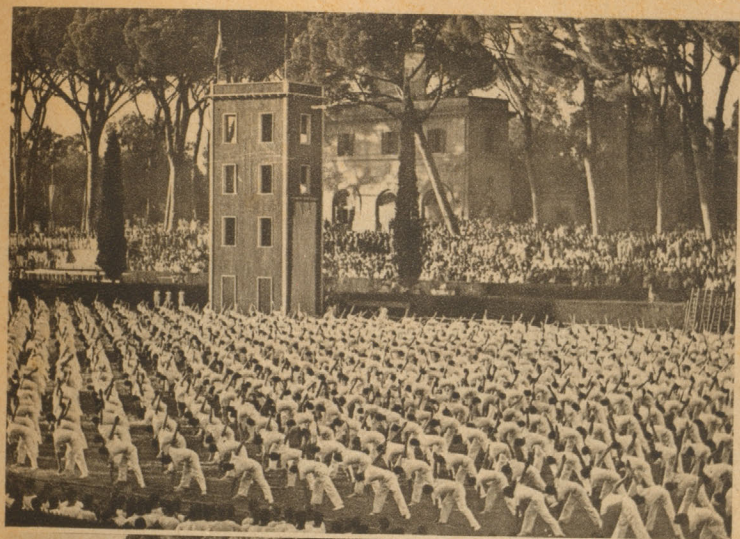




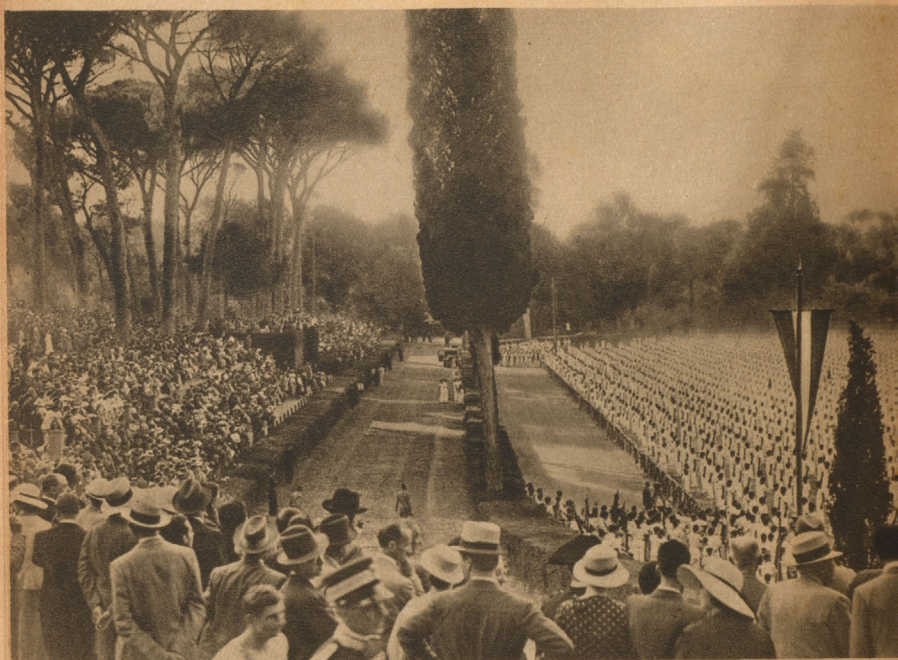
A rally of « heralds » from all parts of Italy organized by the « Dopolaviviro ».



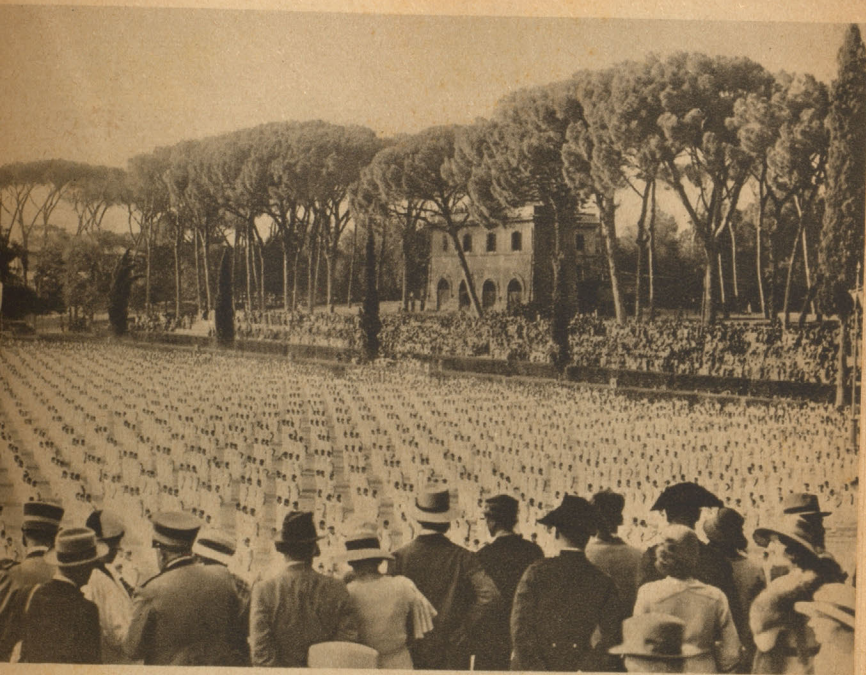
The Snow-Festival at Asiago, organized by the "Dopolavoro" at Vicenza.



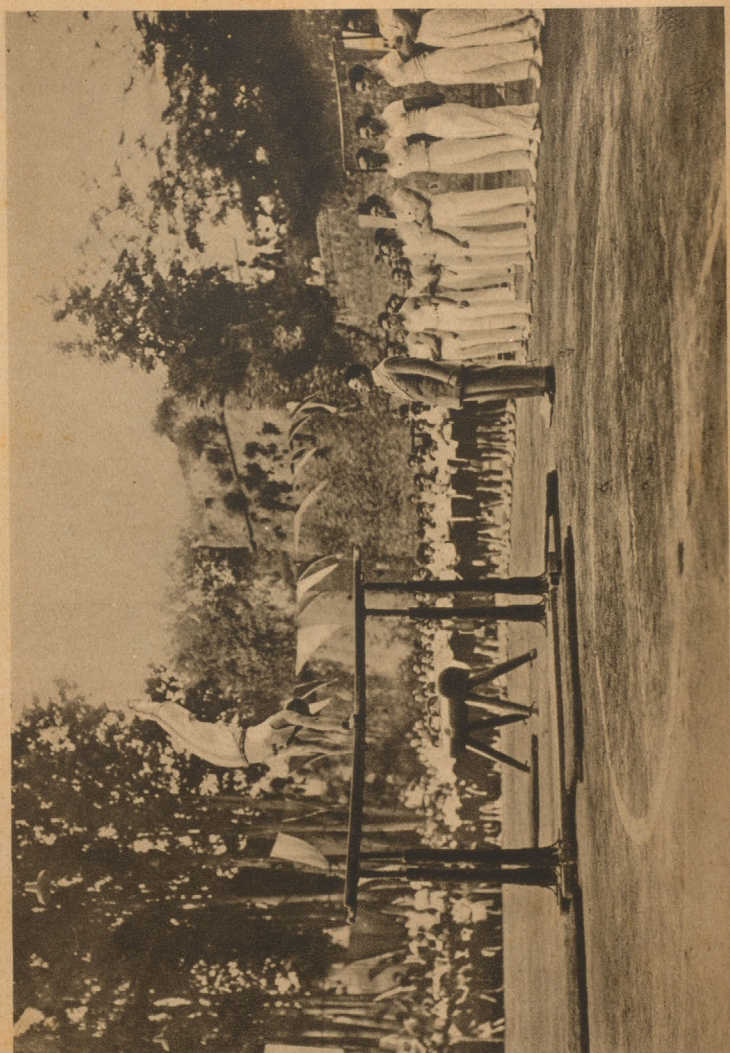
A « Dopolavoro » gymnastic display.



A « Dopolavoro »



stic display.



Gymnastic display at a Provincial Dopolavoro.



« Dopolavoro » sporting contests.



« Dopolavoro » sporting contests.



an insurance policy against accidents met with outside working hours and covering all risks which might be incurred by workers in their leisure hours. This policy guarantees 5.000 lire in case of death, 10.000 in case of permanent disablement, on payment of an annual premium of 6 lire. The O.N.D. has also given its support to the diffusion of « Popular Insurance » instituted by the above mentioned Institution.

#### *FACILITIES AND DISCOUNTS*

Connected with the scheme of assistance are the special concessions obtained from the railways for members of the O.N.D. (Reduction of 50% in the normal price of single tickets on feast days and 50% for parties of at least 5 persons on any day of the week).

Special facilities have also been obtained for members in the purchase of food products at the « Provvida », instituted by the Ministry of Communications, with a considerable reduction in prices and absolute guarantee of quality.

Another form of assistance is the agreement in force with the Consorzio of Industrial Manufacturers by which members of the O.N.D. may obtain clothing and all types of house furnishings at cost price on the hire purchase system.

Post Office Savings Books have been instituted

and special facilities for investment which stimulate the latent spirit of economy in the Italian people, particularly in the country, and at the same time accumulates capital in the State banks.

Among other facilities, mentioned should be made of the arrangement with the Fascist Federation of Private Nursing Homes and the National Fascist Association of State Employees (State employed doctors) by which members of the Dopolavoro are able to obtain considerable discounts.

Other agreements of a local nature have been made with doctors, medical officers, obstetric surgeons, chemists and nursing homes, agreements which have reached the remarkable figure of 4894 and giving the right to discounts of not less than 20% and sometimes as much as 70% on the normal tariffs.

Reductions have also been obtained on entrance fees to all theatres and cinemas in Italy.

This complex organisation for assistance is completed by various facilities and discounts conceded by shop-keepers and manufacturers in every branch of trade and industry. More than 60.000 business houses give discounts to members of the O.N.D.

## HEALT ASSISTANCE

The O.N.D. has instituted a *Sanitary Inspectorate* at the Direction General and also Technical Directorates in every Provincial Dopolavoro. The Technical Directorate of the health service in the province may rely not only on the collaboration of doctors, but also on the help of health officers in general: veterinary surgeons, chemists and sanitary engineers.

The health organisation is divided into four large sections:

- 1) Medicine in relation to sport;
- 2) Hygiene propaganda;
- 3) First aid;
- 4) Health assistance in general.

1. *Medicine in relation to sport.* — Special dispensaries have been instituted for members in which they are examined before permission is given to take part in any competition and especially the championships.

2. *Hygiene propaganda.* — This includes propaganda for hygiene in the person, the home, in work, in courtyards and stables and also information on infectious diseases of persons and animals. It is carried out by means of lessons, lectures and practical instruction and is gradually spreading into rural districts. It is im-

portant to note, in this respect, the valuable work of veterinary surgeons in breaking down prejudices and establishing animal prophylaxis and developing animal husbandry so as to preserve the national stocks of animals. Hygiene propaganda is completed by the publication of short pamphlets which are distributed in large quantities among the working masses.

3. *First aid.* — Special courses of instruction are given, first aid outfits are supplied and societies for assistance and transport are organised with the collaboration of the U.N.P.A.

The courses of instruction consist of two types: instruction for cultured persons, generally directors of the Party organisations, managers of factories and agricultural estates; and instruction for workers. Naturally the former is more complete and extensive and serves to create groups of valuable propagandists. The second, on the other hand, consists solely of information on the most common misfortunes. In spreading a knowledge of first aid the O.N.D. has carried out a work of considerable importance from the point of view of social economy.

The co-operation given to the O.N.D. by the U.N.P.A. has been of great assistance as, thereby, the O.N.D. is able to carry its propaganda to the most remote and unresponsive quarters.

The O.N.D. has also directed the attention and

interest of a great mass of workers towards anti-aircraft defense and is now able to supply defense corps. Instruction on this very important subject is given by doctors, chemists and engineers, and it has been considered advisable to draw up a programme for instruction in view of the need to review the subject matter which, latterly, has extended considerably in scope, the subjects being divided up according to a practical criterion.

The first aid outfits are of great utility in the small villages far from a doctor or chemist.

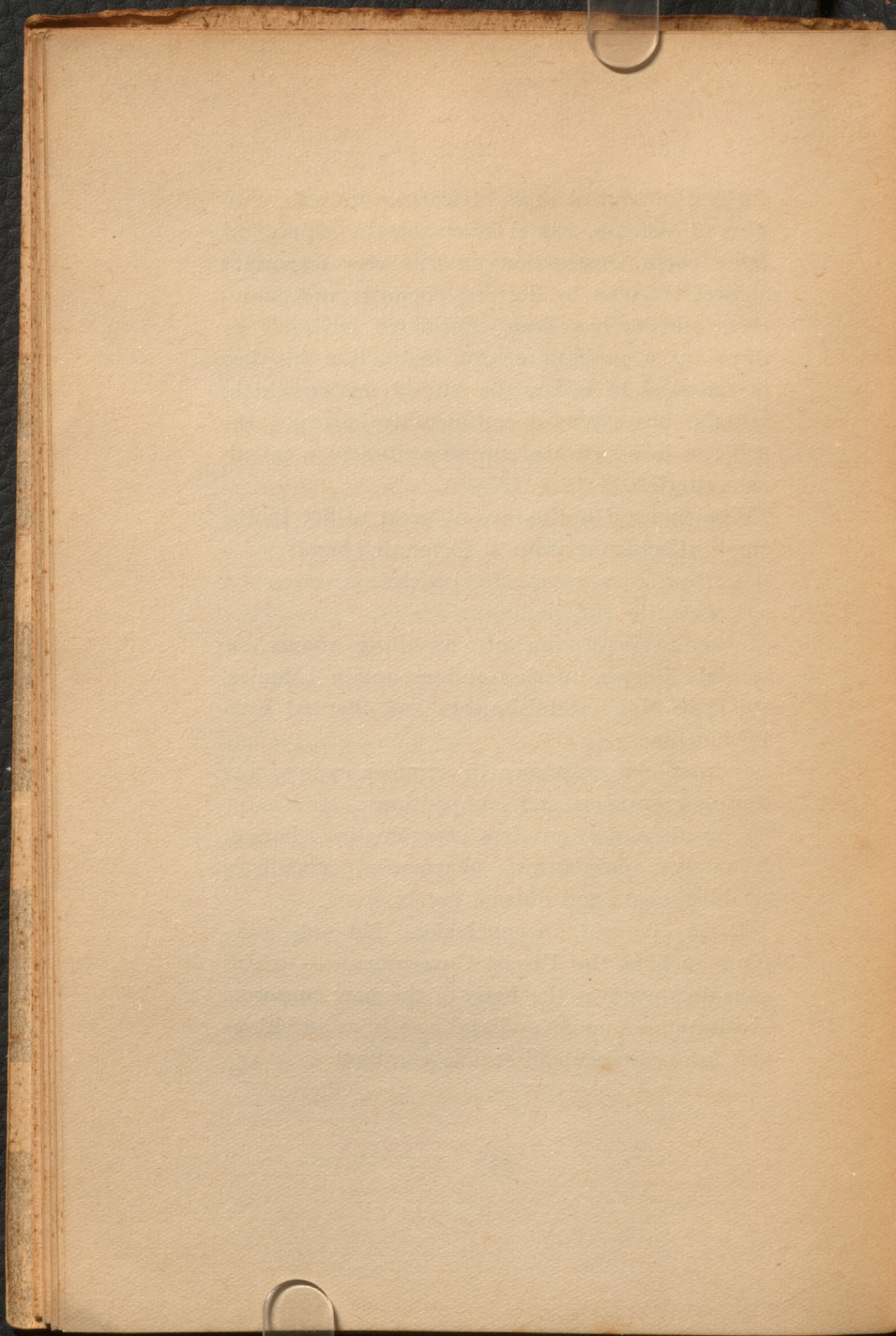
4. *Health assistance in general* is given on a large scale and includes:

a) the institution of consulting rooms for special diseases, marine and mountain colonies, small bathing establishments and thermal establishments;

b) special assistance in summer camps, and during excursions and competitions;

c) discounts on fees for nursing homes, hospitals, ambulances, pharmacies, chemistry establishments and diurnal hotels.

It may be said, in conclusion, that only a regime such as the Fascist Government — which considers work as the basis of the new corporate civilisation — could undertake such an ambitious task for assistance and social protection.



## PUBLICATIONS BY THE O.N.D.

- Gente Nostra* - Illustrated weekly with a large circulation. Photographic documentation of events of the Regime. Illustrated news chronicle of various Dopolavoro in Italy.
- Le Terme di Viterbo e il loro centro di studio sulle Terme* (pp. 96).
- La specializzazione delle Terme di Viterbo - Work of propaganda* (pp. 260).
- Le Terme di Viterbo* (pp. 350).
- Il Fascismo per i lavoratori della terra* (pp. 20).
- L'Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro - Official report of the O.N.D.* (pp. 250, illustrations 100).
- I Concorsi Nazionali per l'ammobigliamento economico e l'arredamento della Casa Popolare* (pp. 260).
- La Casa del Dopolavorista* (pp. 50, illustrations 60).
- Raccolta fotografica ufficiale della Esposizione Nazionale Dopolavoristica di Arti e Mestieri in Bolzano* (pp. 225, illustrations 250).

- Orto-Giardino* - Practical instruction in gardening.
- Il Teatro Filodrammatico* - Illustrating the philodramatic organisation of the O.N.D. and containing short « vade mecum » on recitation and scene designing and painting for the use of amateur actors (pp. 250).
- Collana dei « Carri di Tespi »* - Containing 4 one-act plays by Italian writers (pp. 200).
- Spighe* - Collection of stories by members of the Dopolavoro (pp. 170).
- Novelle* - Stories by members of the Dopolavoro awarded prizes at the IInd National Story Competition (pp. 150).
- Novelle di Operai* - Stories awarded prizes at the Provincial Competitions (pp. 252).
- Musiche, costumi, danze e feste popolari italiane* - Illustrates the activity of the Dopolavoro in the field of popular traditions (pp. 308, illustrations 150).
- Danze Popolari Italiane* - Brief descriptions of the Most characteristic popular dances in Italy (pp. 160, illustrations 100).
- L'utilizzazione delle arti popolari nel riposo dei lavoratori.*
- L'Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro e la Cinematografia Educativa* - Illustrating the work of the O.N.D. (pp. 100, illustrations 40).





Collective drill at a « Dopolavoro » display.

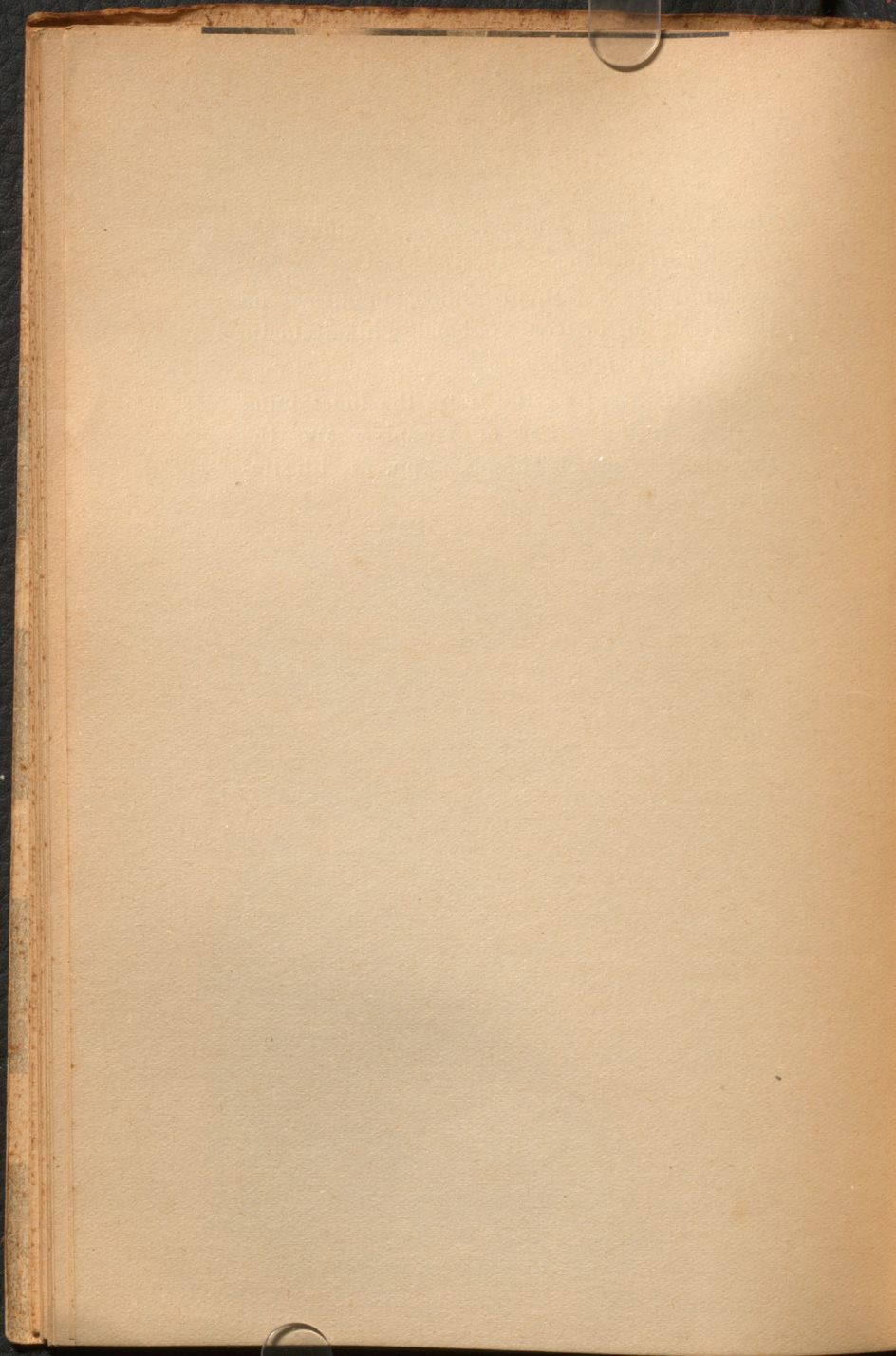


A Saturday matinée performance for « Dopolavoro » members at the Royal Opera House in Rome.

*L'Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro e le Biblioteche Popolari* (pp. 32).

*Filodrammatica* - Numero Unico. Published on the occasion of the National Philodramatic Competition (pp. 64).

*Il « Carro di Tespi »* - Illustrates the functioning of the Musical « Car of Thespis » and the theatrical « Cars of Thespis » (pp. 64, illustrations 70).

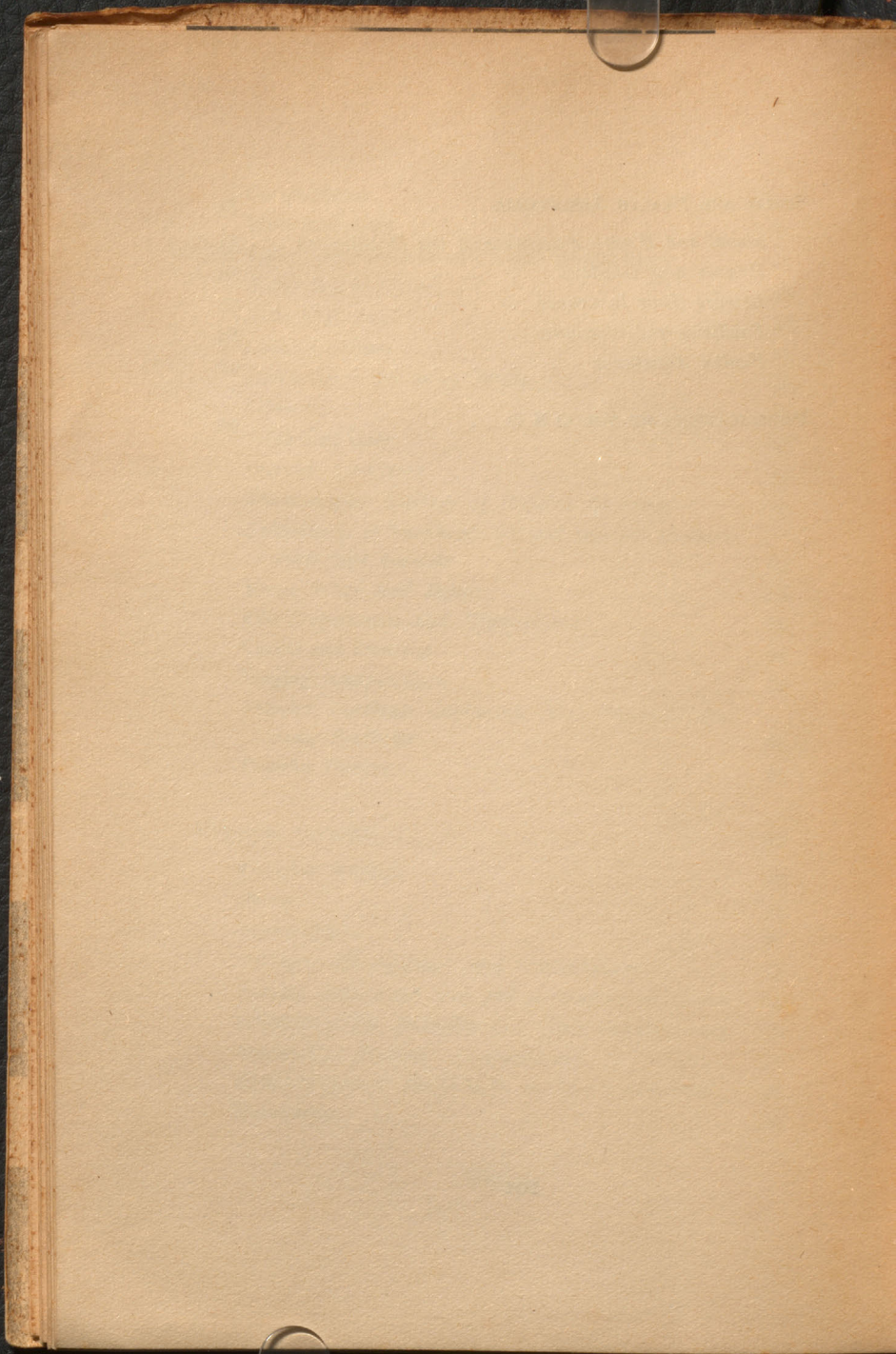


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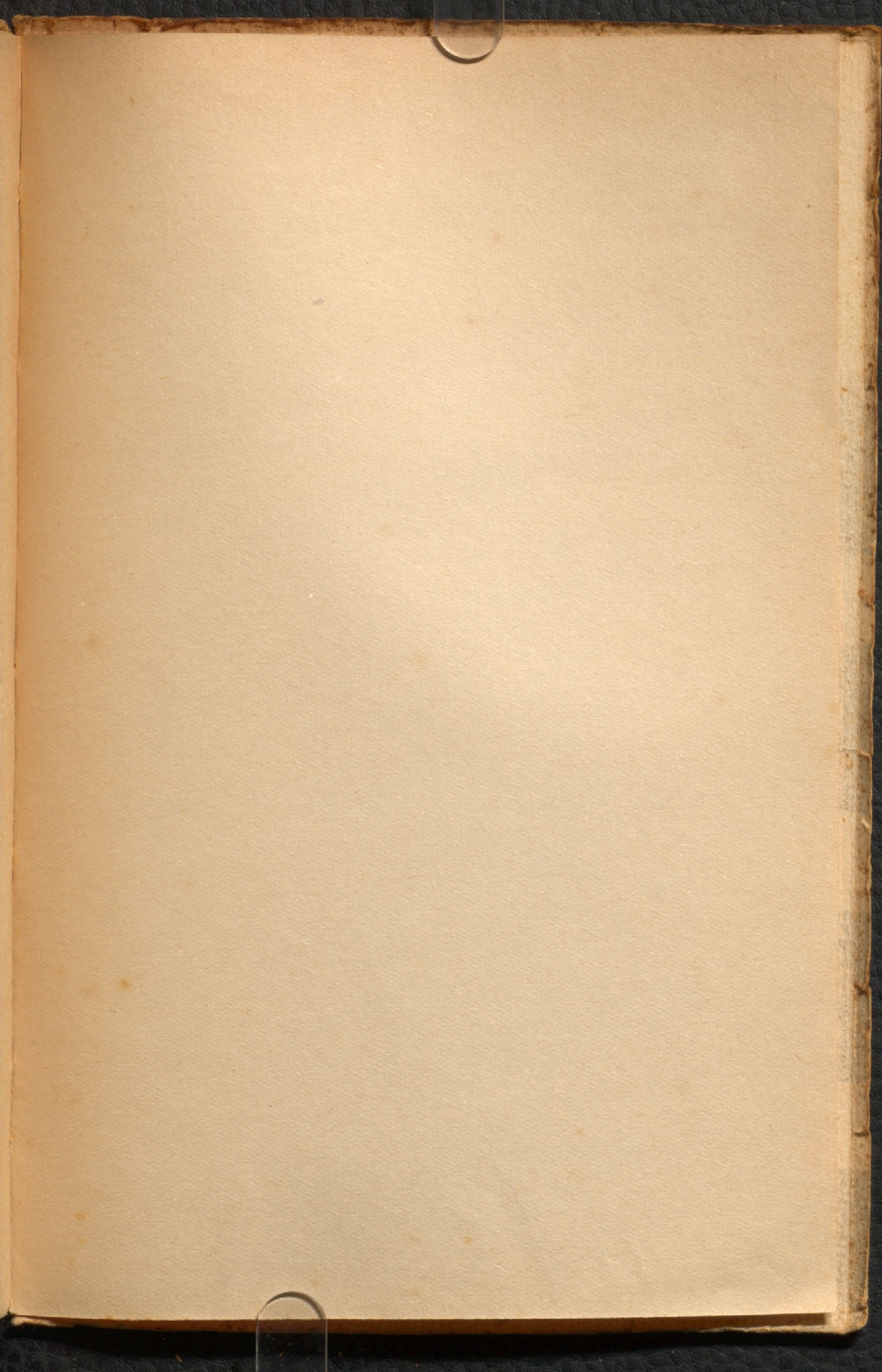
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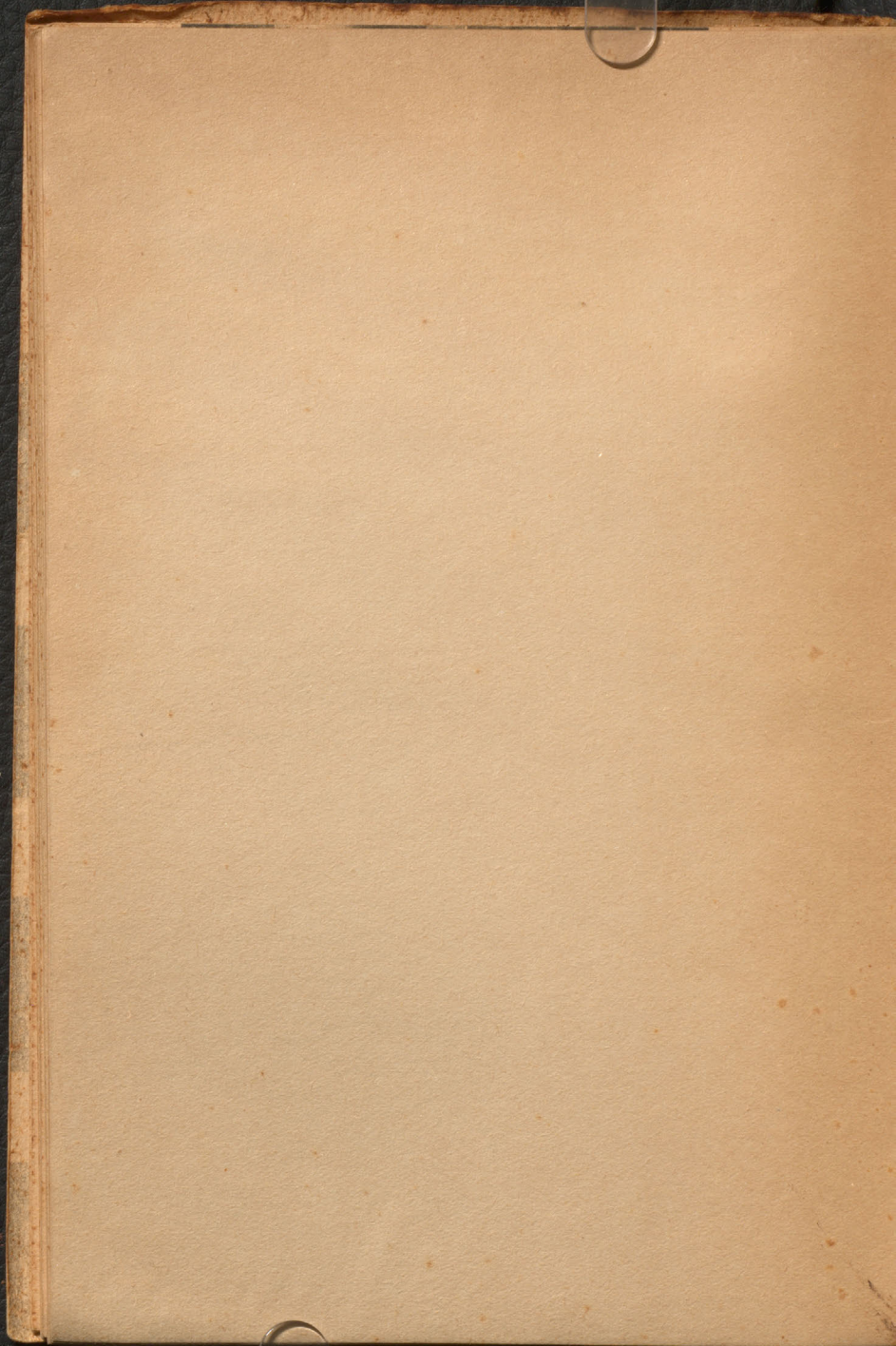
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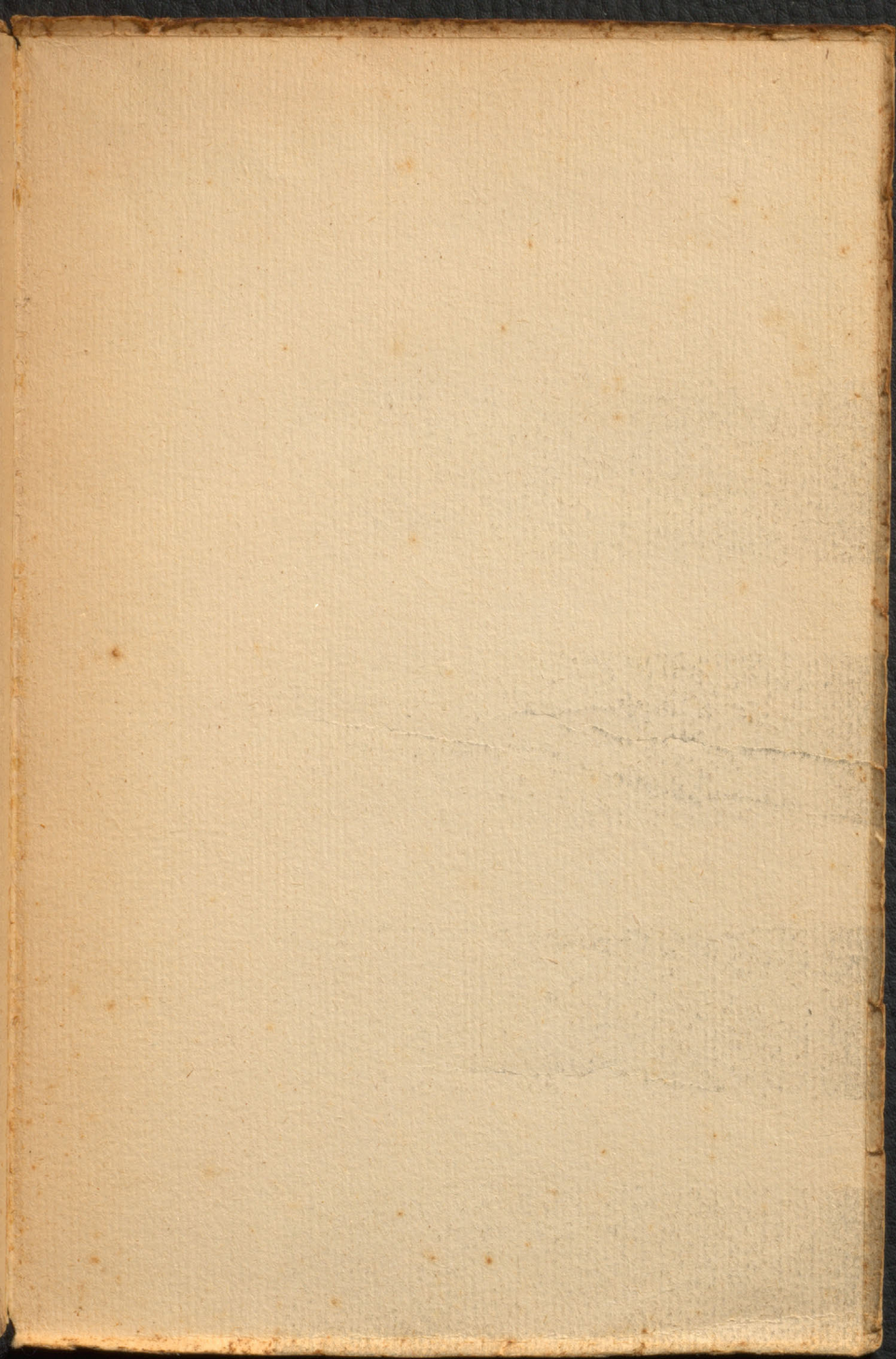
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